2
SUZUKA
KOUJI SEO

SUZUKA

Kouji Seo

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY
David Ury

LETTERED BY
Janice Chiang

BALLANTINE BOOKS • NEW YORK

Suzuka 2

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

Suzuka volume 2 copyright © 2004 by Kouji Seo
English translation copyright © 2006 by Kouji Seo

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2004 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic Publishing rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC, San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682334140

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translator/adaptor: David Ury
Lettering: Janice Chiang

Contents

A Note from the Author.....iv
Honorifics Explained.....v
#5 A Glimpse.....3
#6 A Spring Storm.....23
#7 The Secret.....43
#8 Whirlwind.....63
#9 Self-Awareness.....83
#10 Lovesick.....103
#11 The Promise.....123
#12 The Confession.....143
#13 Heartbreak.....163
Bonus Manga.....182
Translation Notes 184
Preview of Volume 3 188

A Note from the Author

Pretty much everybody alive has suffered from heartbreak at least once or twice. I once confessed my love to a girl on New Year's Eve, only to be turned down on the spot. The next thing I knew they were ringing the New Year's bell...and it suddenly started snowing. My body and heart both went stone cold. It was the worst New Year's ever! Well, looking back, it doesn't seem so bad.

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many translations into English leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the "feel" of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san." It is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/
Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it's perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute,* it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

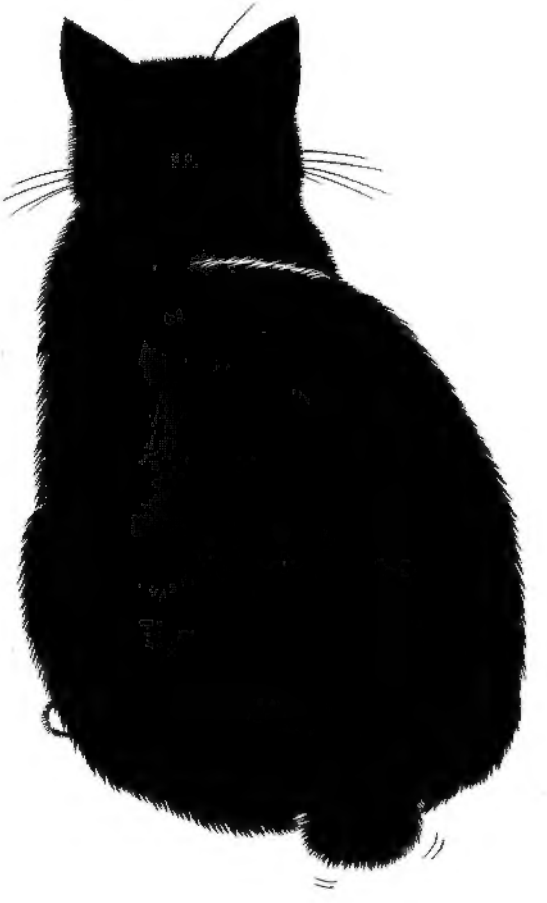
SUZUKA

2

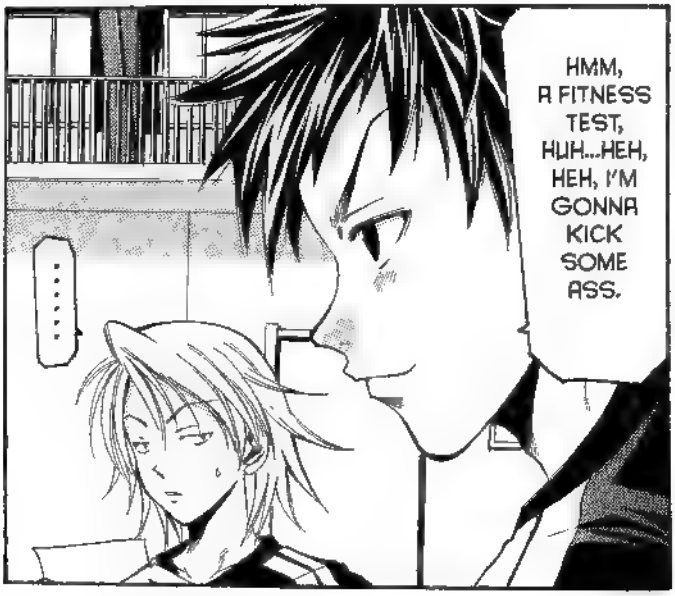
Kouji Seo

Contents

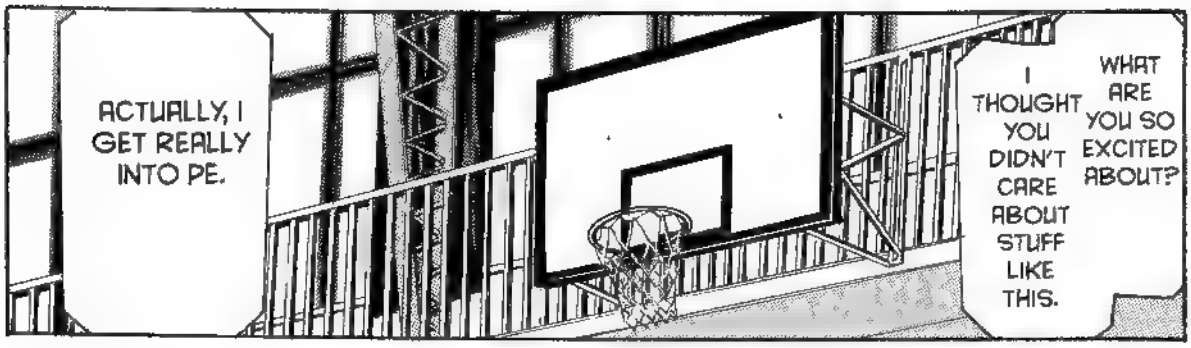
#5 A Glimpse.....3
#6 A Spring Storm.....23
#7 The Secret.....43
#8 Whirlwind.....63
#9 Self-Awareness.....83
#10 Lovesick.....103
#11 The Promise.....123
#12 The Confession.....143
#13 Heartbreak.....163



SUZUKA
#5 A Glimpse


HMM, A FITNESS TEST, HUH...HEH, HEH, I'M GONNA KICK SOME ASS.
.....

ONCE YOU'RE DONE CALCULATING YOUR PARTNER'S TIME.
MOVE ON TO THE NEXT ACTIVITY. DON'T DAWDLE.
YOU'LL FORM INTO PAIRS AND RECORD EACH OTHER'S SCORES.


ACTUALLY, I GET REALLY INTO PE.
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T CARE ABOUT STUFF LIKE THIS.
WHAT ARE YOU SO EXCITED ABOUT?

AH, WAIT! THERE'S NO LINE FOR THE STANDING JUMP EITHER.
OKAY, WHATEVER! LET'S GO DO THE SIDE TO SIDE JUMP FIRST. I DOUBT THERE'S A LINE FOR THAT ONE.

HUH?
SCREW THE STANDING JUMP...

I WAS THE STRONGEST GUY IN MY JUNIOR HIGH CLASS!
GOD, DON'T ACT SO SURPRISED!

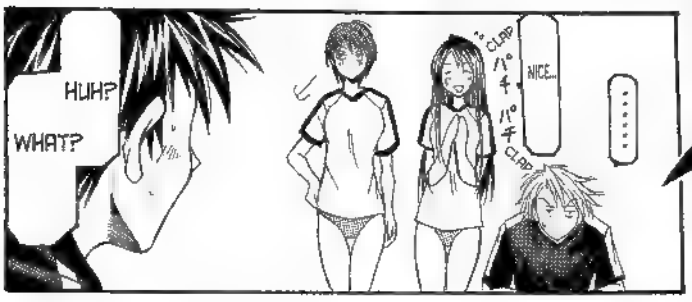
H-HEY, DON'T GET ANY IDEAS...
THWUP
OH, I SEE HOW IT IS...
OKAY, OKAY...
UMMM.
YOUR SHOULDERS ARE REALLY TENSE, SAKURAI-SAN.
RUB
RUB
WAIT, HATTORI!
HEY, SUZUKA-CHAN! YOU TEAMED UP WITH SAKURAI-SAN, HUH?
WHY DON'T ALL FOUR OF US GO THROUGH THE EVENTS TOGETHER.
HATTORI-KUN.
...THAT'S FINE WITH ME.
Y-
YEAH, ME TOO.

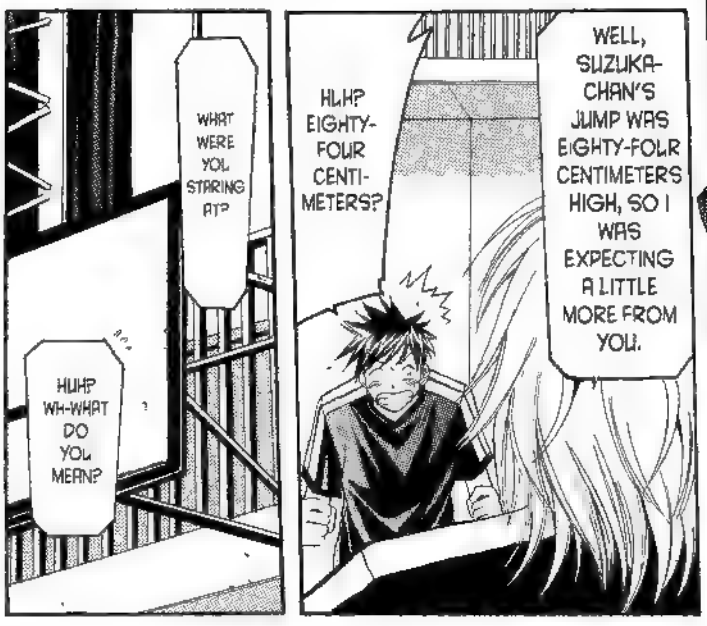
I GET TO BE WITH AKITSUKI-KUN...
.....
UH, S-SURE, WHATEVER...
THIS'LL BE AWESOME, RIGHT, YAMATO?
FWAHHHH
W-WELL, GO AHEAD, SUZUKA-CHAN.
WE'LL JUST SIT DOWN AND WATCH.
WHAT? WHY DON'T WE STAND?
OKAY.
OUCH.
YANK
JUST SIT DOWN!

FLUTTER
YOU'RE AMAZING, ASAHINA-SAN!
.....
SEE? NOW AREN'T YOU GLAD YOU'RE SITTING DOWN?
ALL RIGHT, GUYS! WATCH THIS! I'LL PUT ASAHINA TO SHAME!
GO, YAMATO! ♡
コキッ
CRACK
コキッ
CRACK
I'M TOO EMBARRASSED TO GO RIGHT AFTER THAT PERFORMANCE, ASAHINA-SAN. WHY DON'T YOU GO NEXT, AKITSUKI-KUN?
UH...
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN, SAKURAI-SAN!
HUH... ME?
ONE STEP
JUST WATCH!
I WAS NUMBER ONE BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH!
YOU SOUND PRETTY CONFIDENT.
GO FOR IT, AKITSUKI-KUN...

SEVENTY-TWO POINT FIVE CENTIMETERS.
75
70

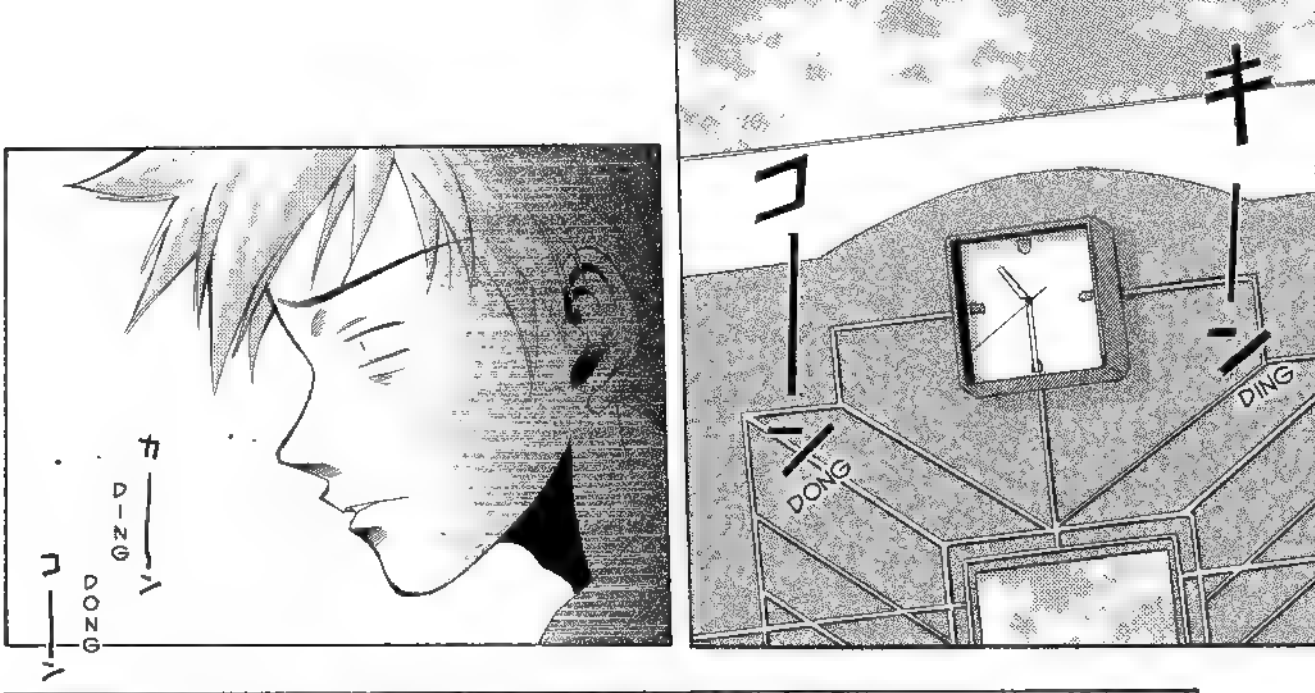
NOT BAD EH?
HOW ABOUT THAT?


HUH?
WHAT?
CLAP
NICE...
.....
CLAP


WHAT WERE YOU STARING AT?
HUH? WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HUH? EIGHTY-FOUR CENTI-METERS?
WELL, SUZUKA-CHAN'S JUMP WAS EIGHTY-FOUR CENTIMETERS HIGH, SO I WAS EXPECTING A LITTLE MORE FROM YOU.

FWAHHHH

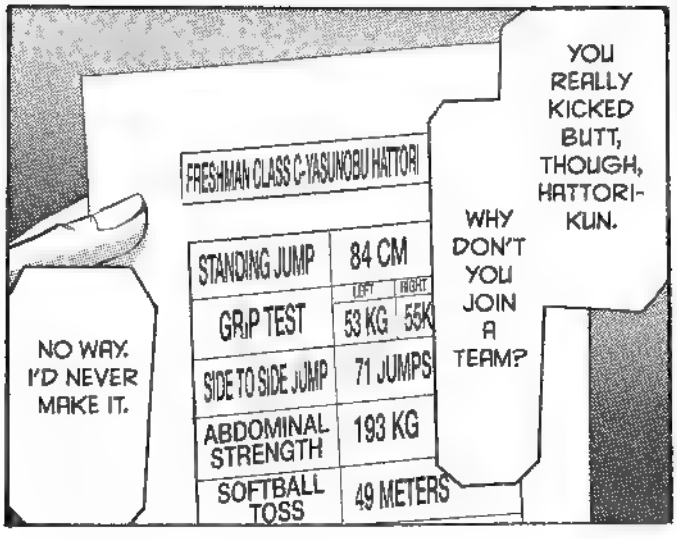
WELL, LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH, SO WE CAN MOVE ON TO THE NEXT EVENT.
HEY, DON'T MAKE FUN OF MY HOMETOWN!
DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU...I'M SURE THAT'S CONSIDERED A TOP-NOTCH PERFORMANCE OUT IN THE BOONIES.
SLAP
WOW, HATTORI-KUN!
HM.
YES! I TIED SUZUKA-CHAN!
WHOA... EIGHTY-FOUR CENTI-METERS?
L-LET'S MOVE ON. I'LL BEAT YOU GUYS ON THIS ONE. I'VE GOT A REALLY STRONG GRIP.
WHAT-EVER
I-I'M SURE YOU WILL, AKITSUKI-KUN.
.....
AH!


キーン
DING
DONG
コーン

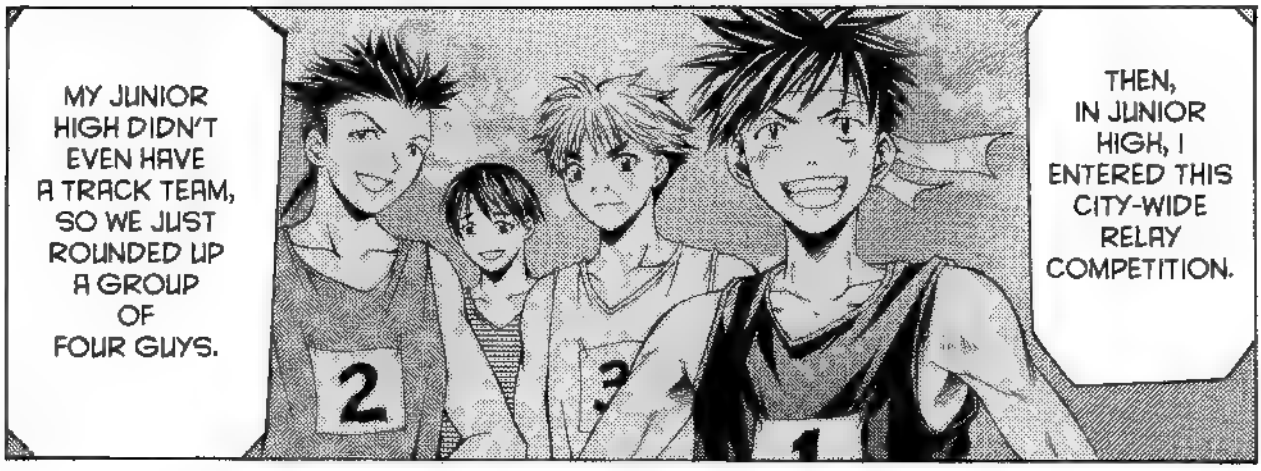
D-DON'T SAY THAT, AKITSUKI-KUN. I MEAN, YOU'RE STILL GETTING OVER THAT COLD.
I'M PATHETIC.
すーん
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU BEAT ME AT EVERY SINGLE EVENT, HATTORI.
ARE YOU OKAY, GRAMPS?
IT'S LIKE YOU SUDDENLY TURNED INTO AN OLD MAN.

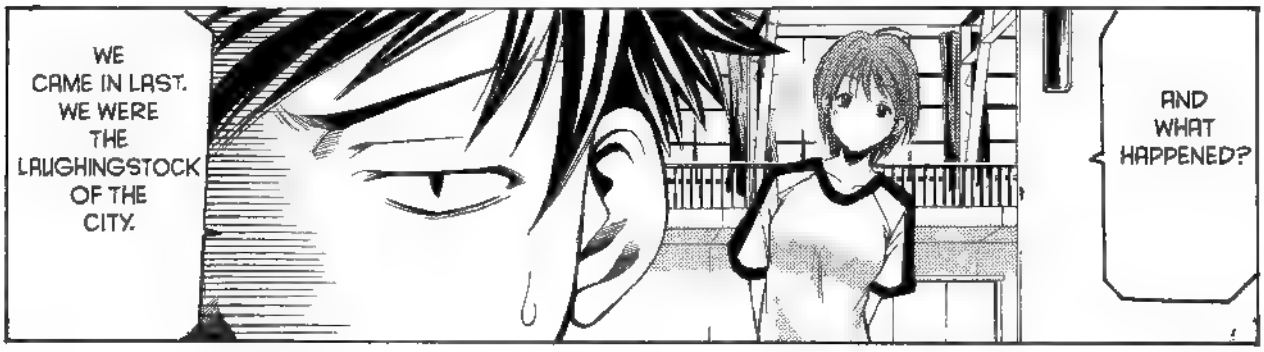
WHOA, LAY OFF! YOU'RE GONNA GIVE THE OLD MAN A HEART ATTACK.
WAH...
ガサ
STING

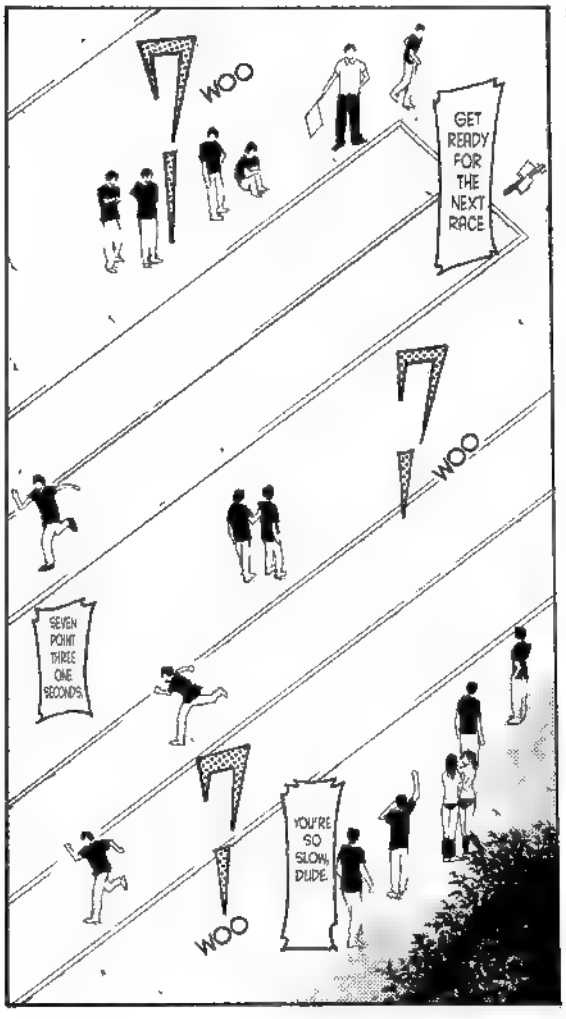
TCH, THIS SCHOOL IS FAMOUS FOR ITS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT, YOU KNOW. I FIGURED YOU'D AT LEAST BE ABLE TO KEEP UP, BUT...
YOU'RE TOTALLY AVERAGE.


FRESHMAN CLASS C-YASUNOBU HATTORI
STANDING JUMP 84 CM
GRIP TEST LEFT 53 KG RIGHT 55K
SIDE TO SIDE JUMP 71 JUMPS
ABDOMINAL STRENGTH 193 KG
SOFTBALL TOSS 49 METERS
YOU REALLY KICKED BUTT, THOUGH, HATTORI-KUN.
WHY DON'T YOU JOIN A TEAM?
NO WAY. I'D NEVER MAKE IT.

THERE ARE TONS OF GUYS IN THIS SCHOOL WHO'RE WAY BETTER ATHLETES THAN I AM.
IF I JOINED A TEAM, I'D JUST END UP MAKING AN ASS OF MYSELF.
YEAH, AND YOU WOULDN'T HAVE ANY TIME TO PICK UP CHICKS.
SHUT UP! GO BACK TO THE BOONIES!
WHAT-EVER.
NEXT UP IS THE FIFTY-METER DASH.
THINK YOU'LL WIN THIS ONE, YAMATO-KUN?
HUH?
ARE YOU OKAY, AKITSUKI-KUN?
YOU FINALLY READY TO THROW IN THE TOWEL?
.....
...NO WAY.
I'VE ALWAYS SUCKED AT THIS EVENT.
YOU HAVE?
YEAH.
I TOOK FIRST PLACE BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, BUT...


MY JUNIOR HIGH DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A TRACK TEAM, SO WE JUST ROUNDED UP A GROUP OF FOUR GUYS.
2
3
1
THEN, IN JUNIOR HIGH, I ENTERED THIS CITY-WIDE RELAY COMPETITION.

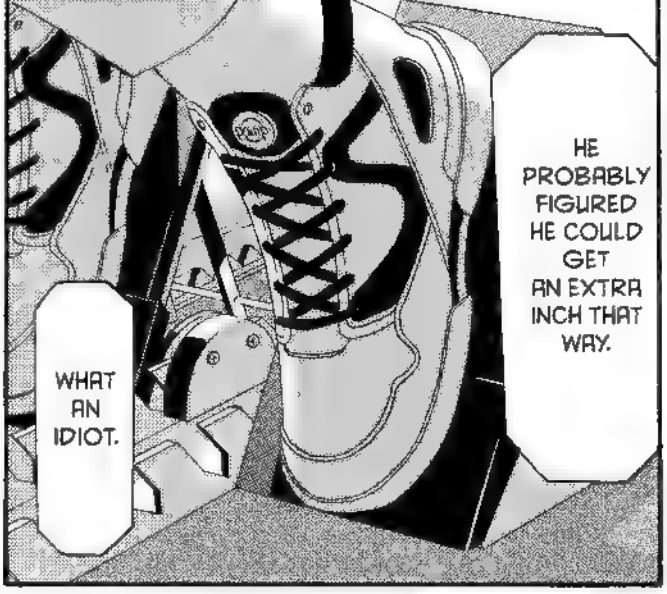

WE CAME IN LAST. WE WERE THE LAUGHINGSTOCK OF THE CITY.
AND WHAT HAPPENED?


WOO
GET READY FOR THE NEXT RACE
WOO
SEVEN POINT THREE ONE SECONDS.
YOU'RE SO SLOW, DUDE.
WOO

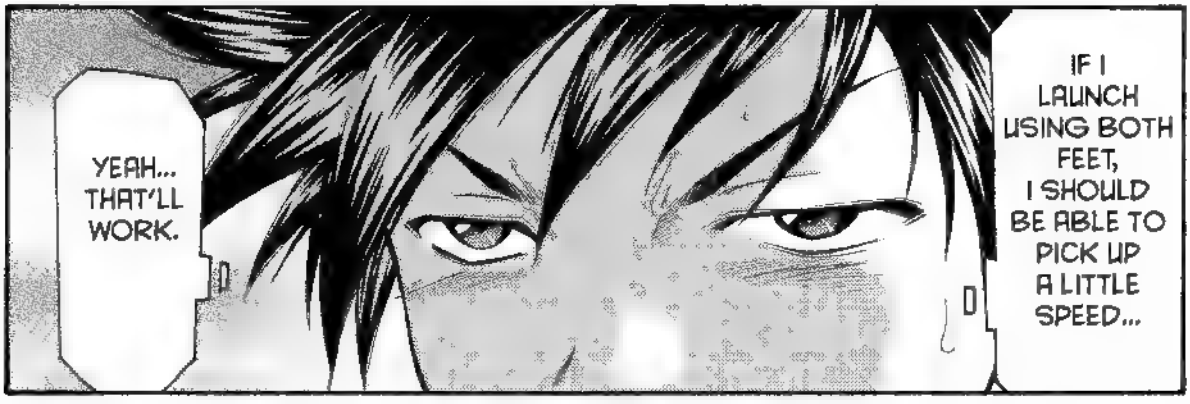
SO THAT'S WHY YOU JOINED THE BASEBALL TEAM? HOW LAME.
I HAVEN'T RUN A FIFTY-METER DASH SINCE.

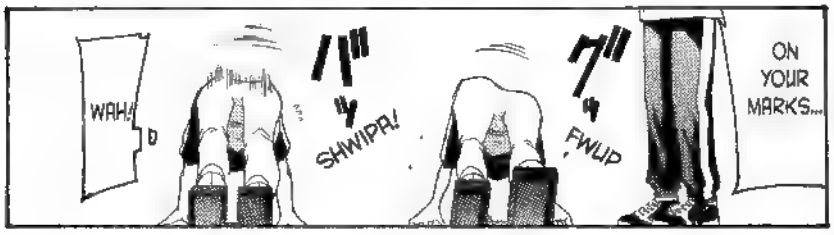
MAYBE I'LL JUST DITCH THE REST OF THIS CLASS.
...
TO HELL WITH THAT. WHO'S GONNA CALCULATE MY TIME?
JUST GET SOMEONE ELSE TO DO T.

OH, COME ON. I'M SURE GRAMPS WILL FIND A WAY TO MAKE THIS INTERESTING.
I ALMOST DON'T EVEN WANNA WATCH.
SIGH.
カチャ・ CLICK
カチャ CLICK
カチャ CLICK
REALLY? WELL, THAT SHOULD MAKE THINGS EVEN MORE INTERESTING.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S RACING AGAINST KOBAYAKAWA-KUN. THAT GUY'S HERE ON A TRACK SCHOLARSHIP.
ALL RIGHT, GET IN POSITION.
YES, SIR!
OKAY.
WOBBLE フラ
ガチャ・ CLICK


HE PROBABLY FIGURED HE COULD GET AN EXTRA INCH THAT WAY.
WHAT AN IDIOT.

LOOKS LIKE YAMATO-KUN IS GONNA TRY A TWO-FOOTED LAUNCH.
YEP, LOOKS LIKE IT.


IF I LAUNCH USING BOTH FEET, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO PICK UP A LITTLE SPEED...
YEAH... THAT'LL WORK.


ON YOUR MARKS...
FWUP
SHWIPA!
WAH!

WHY THE HECK IS EVERYBODY WATCHING?
WOO
WOO
GO AWAY, YOU ASSHOLES.

HANG IN THERE, AKITSUKI-KUN!

SHIT...
WELL, I MIGHT AS WELL....

...GIVE IT EVERYTHING I'VE GOT!
.....!
N-NO WAY!
FWOOSH
KOBAYAKAWA-KUN GOT A LATE START!

BEEP
FWOOSH

WAH! I WON!
HUH?

DID YOU DO TRACK IN JUNIOR HIGH?
HUH?
DUDE, THAT WAS AMAZING!
WHOOSH
UH... IS THAT GOOD?
PANT
PANT
WHA—? FIVE POINT NINE THREE SECONDS?

HAVE YOU JOINED A TEAM YET?
N-NO...
YOU SHOULD BE ON THE TRACK TEAM!
NO WAY! WITH SPEED LIKE THAT, HE SHOULD BE ON THE BASEBALL TEAM.

Y-YOU KNEW?
SEE? I TOLD YOU IT'D GET INTEREST-ING.

WOW!
YOU'RE SO FAST, AKITSUKI-KUN!

BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT RELAY HE WAS TALKING ABOUT?
THE OTHER GUYS PROBABLY SLOWED HIM DOWN.
NOT EXACTLY... BUT WHEN WE WERE KIDS, WE USED TO GET IN TROUBLE ALL THE TIME, AND WE'D END UP RUNNING AWAY. HE WAS ALWAYS FASTER THAN ME.
I CAN NEVER BREAK SIX SECONDS.
!
!

LOOKS LIKE HE'S FINALLY PROVEN HIMSELF.
.....
THEY KEPT HIM ON THE BENCH FOR MOST OF THE SEASON WHEN HE WAS ON THE BASEBALL TEAM.

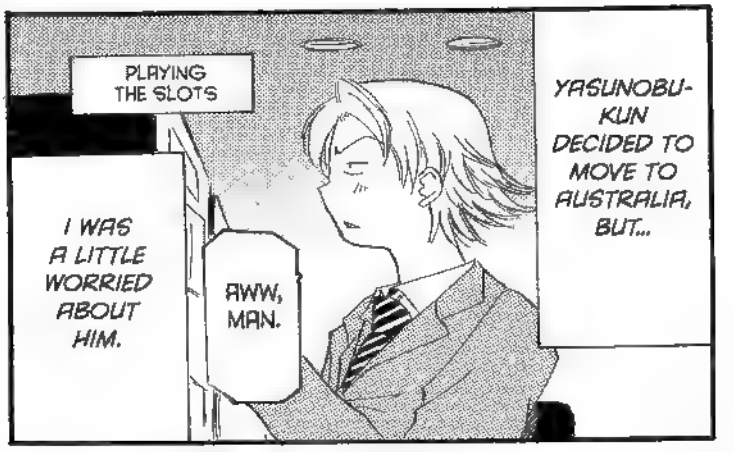
HEY, ASAHINA!
DID YOU SEE HOW FAST I RAN?

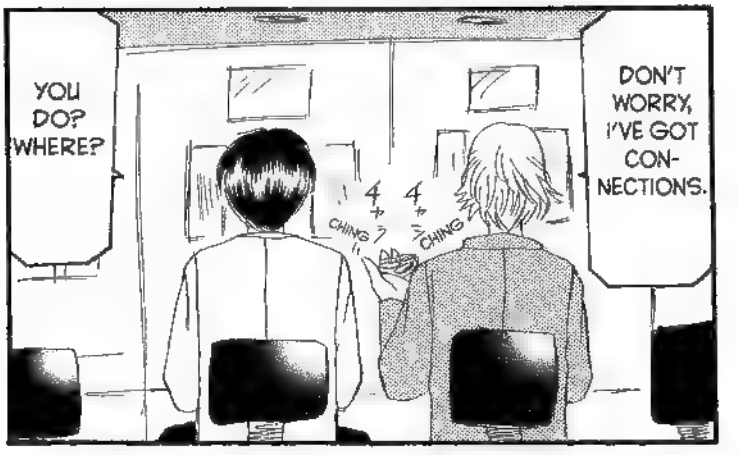
THUMP
キッ
THUMP
・・・!

YEAH, YOU DID OKAY, I GUESS.
HUH?
COME ON, SAKURAI-SAN. WE STILL HAVE TO RUN.
HUH? W-WAIT A SEC, ASAHINA-SAN.
I DID "OKAY"? IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY?

SAID WAIT, ASAHINA-SAN.
IT- IT'S NOT LIKE THAT'S WHAT I WAS TRYING FOR...
DON'T WORRY, MAN. YOU JUST SCORED SOME POINTS. TRUST ME.
BUT...
MAYBE NOW SHE'LL SEE ME IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT.
ASAHINA.

SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER NUMBER FIVE
THE OPTIMIST

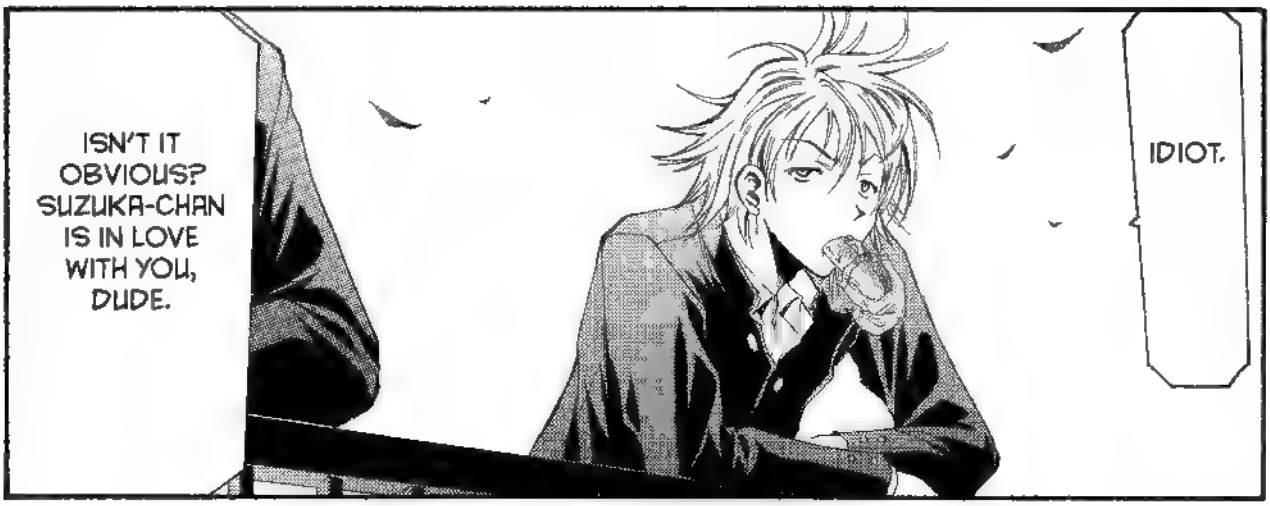




MMM!
CHOMP
SURE IS A NICE DAY TODAY.
HUH?
WHY DO YOU KEEP STARING AT ME?
IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, THEN SAY IT.
...DON'T... UM...I WAS JUST GONNA SAY...
HUH?

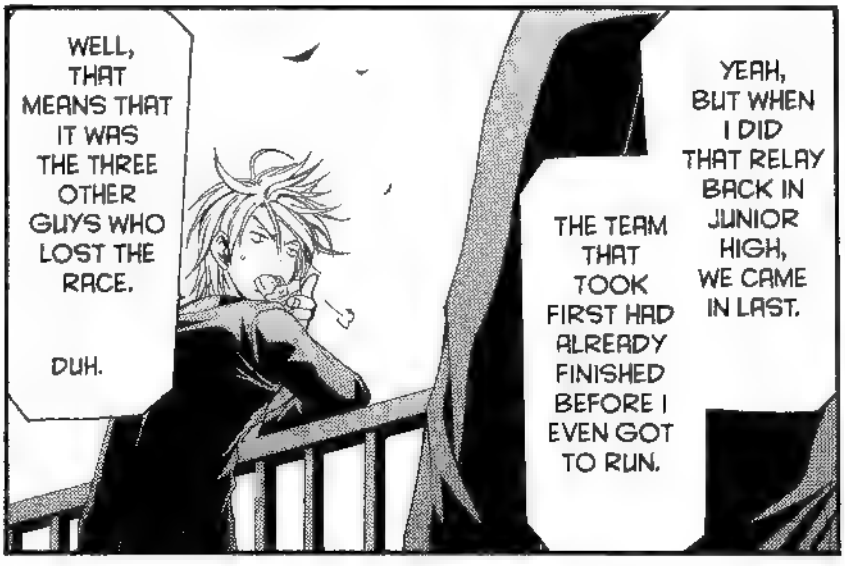
Suzuka

#6
A Spring Storm


ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? SUZUKA-CHAN IS IN LOVE WITH YOU, DUDE.
IDIOT.

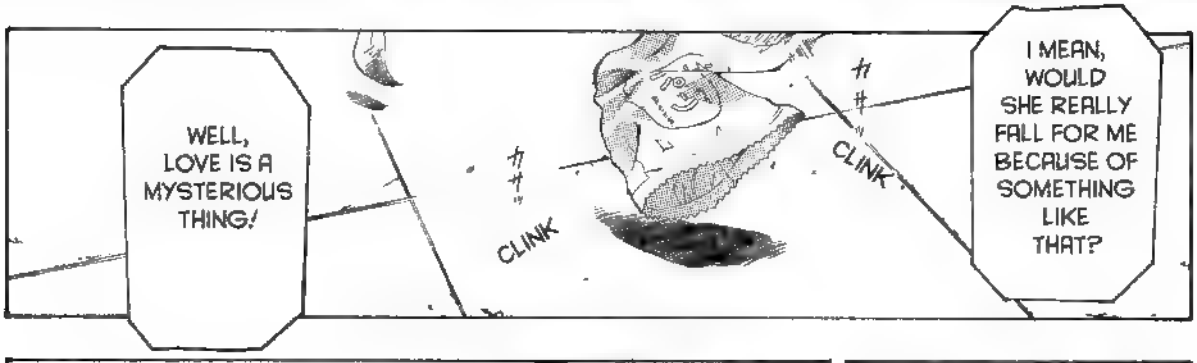
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HUH?

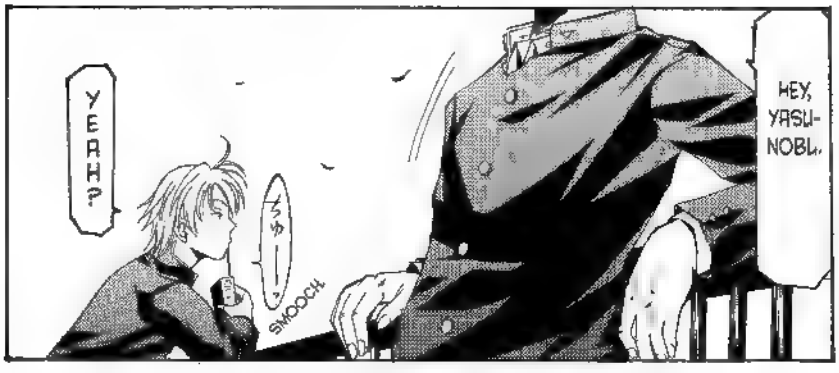
EVEN I WAS SURPRISED AT HOW FAST YOU RAN.
I TOLD YOU, DUDE. YOU PICKED UP SOME POINTS WHEN YOU WON THAT RACE THE OTHER DAY.


WELL, THAT MEANS THAT IT WAS THE THREE OTHER GUYS WHO LOST THE RACE.
DUH.
THE TEAM THAT TOOK FIRST HAD ALREADY FINISHED BEFORE I EVEN GOT TO RUN.
YEAH, BUT WHEN I DID THAT RELAY BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH, WE CAME IN LAST.

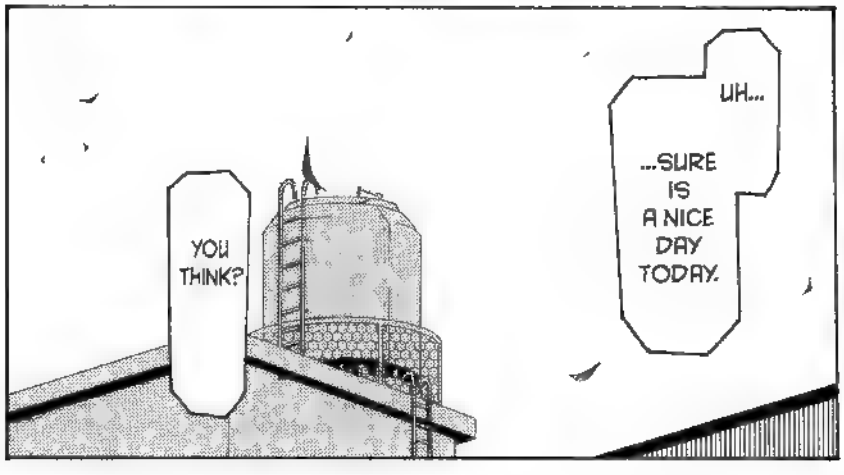
THINK ABOUT IT. IF YOU LIKE A CHICK IN YOUR CLASS, YOU STARE AT HER, DON'T YOU?
Y-YEAH, I GUESS SO.
BUT SEE, YOU'VE NEVER BEEN STARED AT LIKE THAT, SO YOU DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE.

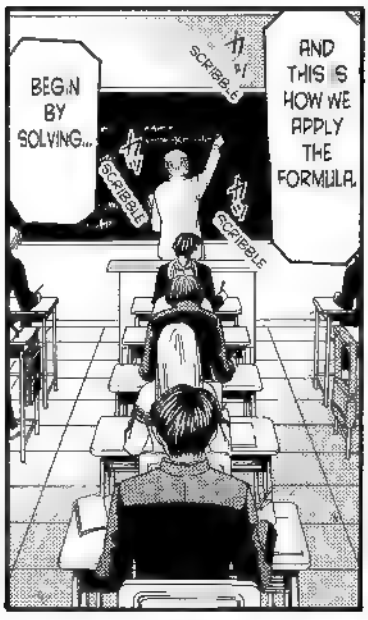
WELL, ANYWAY... YOU'RE FAST, DUDE.
AND, WHEN SUZUKA-CHAN SAW YOU RUN LIKE THAT, SHE TOOK NOTICE.
YOU'RE SO LUCKY.
I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T QUITE SEE IT.

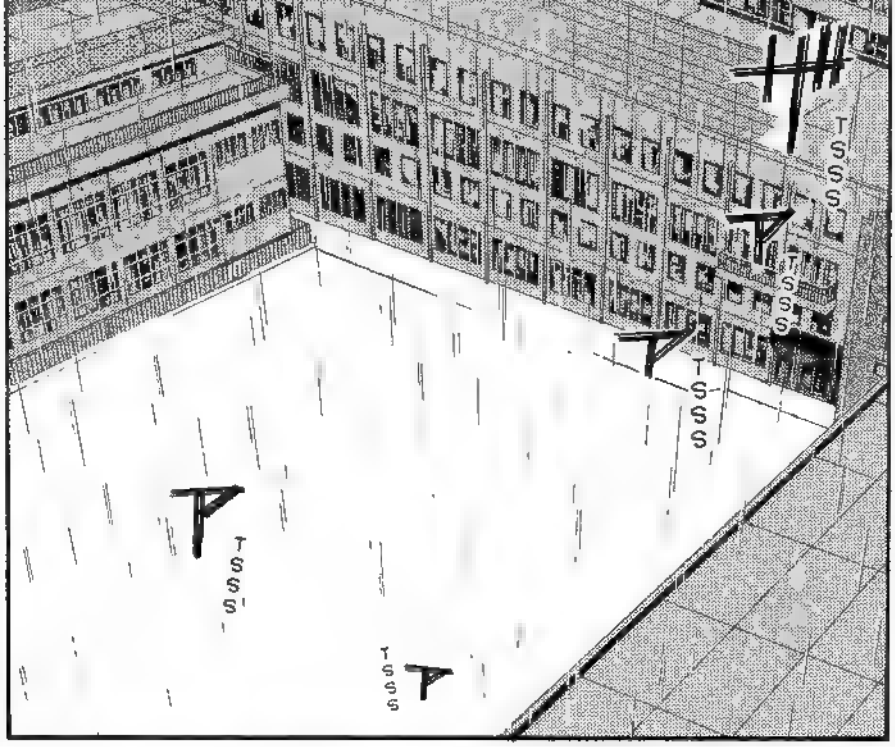

WELL, LOVE IS A MYSTERIOUS THING!
CLINK
CLINK
I MEAN, WOULD SHE REALLY FALL FOR ME BECAUSE OF SOMETHING LIKE THAT?


YEAH?
YA—
SMOOCH
HEY, YASU-NOBU.

.....


YOU THINK?
UH... ...SURE IS A NICE DAY TODAY.

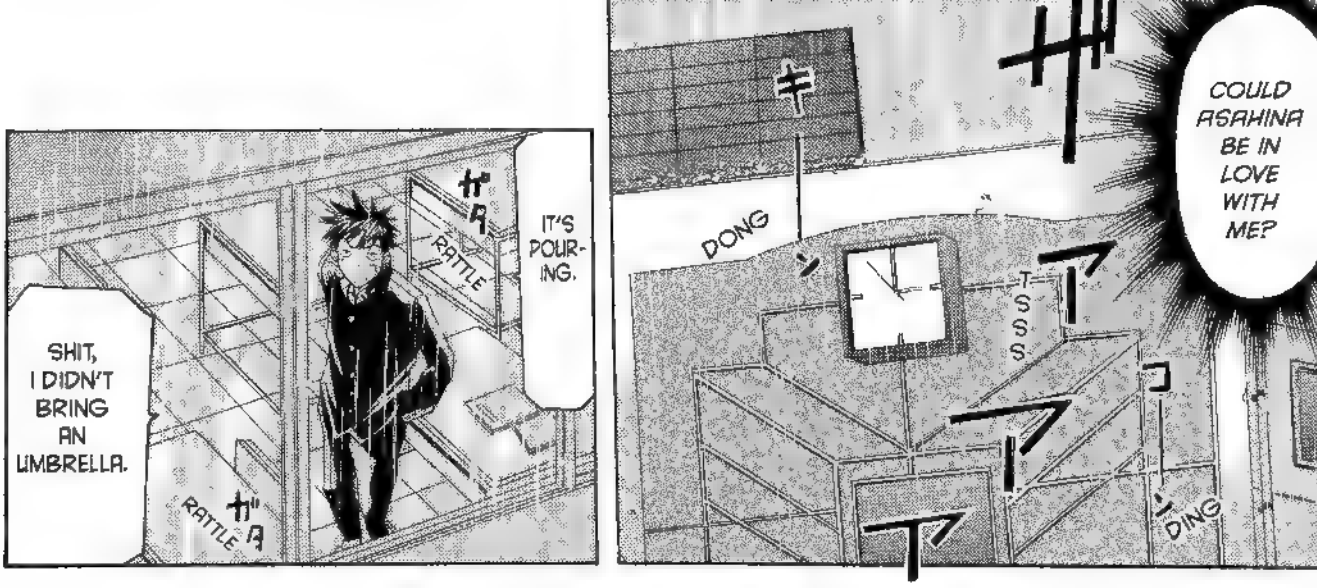

BEGIN BY SOLVING...
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
AND THIS IS HOW WE APPLY THE FORMULA.


TSSS
TSSS
TSSS
TSSS
TSSS

YEAH, WHATEVER, HATTORI.
ASAHINA IN LOVE WITH ME...?

SHE'S STARING AT ME AGAIN.
HUH?

MAYBE HE'S RIGHT.
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
M-


COULD ASAHINA BE IN LOVE WITH ME?
DONG
TSSS
DING
IT'S POUR-ING.
RATTLE
RATTLE
SHIT, I DIDN'T BRING AN UMBRELLA.

.....
.....
O-OH, WELL... I'LL JUST HAVE TO SHARE HERS.
I DON'T WANNA GET SOAKED ON THE WAY HOME.
H-HEY, ASAHINA...
SUZUKA!
OH YEAH... ASAHINA ALWAYS CARRIES AN UMBRELLA, DOESN'T SHE?

WE'D BETTER HURRY OR WE'LL GET YELLED AT AGAIN.
HEY... CAN I USE YOUR UMBR-
OH, SO WE'RE MEETING IN THE GYM?
PRACTICE IS RAINED OUT, SO WE'RE DOING WEIGHT TRAINING INSTEAD.
CHATTER
CHATTER
UM...
AKITSUK-KUN.
HONOKA-CHAN.
I GUESS SHE'S BUSY...
O-OH, WELL...

UH...
YEAH...
D-DID YOU FORGET YOUR UMBRELLA?
UM, IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN SHARE MINE.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO CATCH COLD AGAIN.
UM...
UH...
...?
UH, ACTUALLY... I'M SUPPOSED TO HOOK UP WITH HATTORI!
OH, THEN I'LL WAIT FOR HIM WITH YOU.
UH, THAT'S OKAY. ACUTALLY, IT'S NOT THAT IMPORTANT. I'LL JUST TALK TO HIM TOMORROW.

THANK GOD!
YOU ROCK, SAKURAI!
HUH?
AH! YOU'VE GOT AN UMBRELLA!
WH-WHAT'S WITH YOU, HATTORI-KUN?
WELL, I'M SUPPOSED TO GO TO A DATING PARTY AFTER SCHOOL, BUT I FORGOT MY UMBRELLA.
HUH? WHAT IS THAT? A HAMSTER?
IT'S A CAT.
OH.
B-BUT...
AKITSUKI-KUN WAS-
OKAY, WELL, LET ME SHARE YOUR LITTLE KITTY UMBRELLA JUST UNTIL WE GET TO THE STATION.
I DON'T WANNA SHOW UP TOTALLY SOAKED. IT'LL RUIN MY HAIR.
OKAY?
HUH?
WHAT?
SORRY, YAMATO, BUT I GOTTA DO THIS!
OKAY.

PHEW

1-C
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
UH... B-BUT...

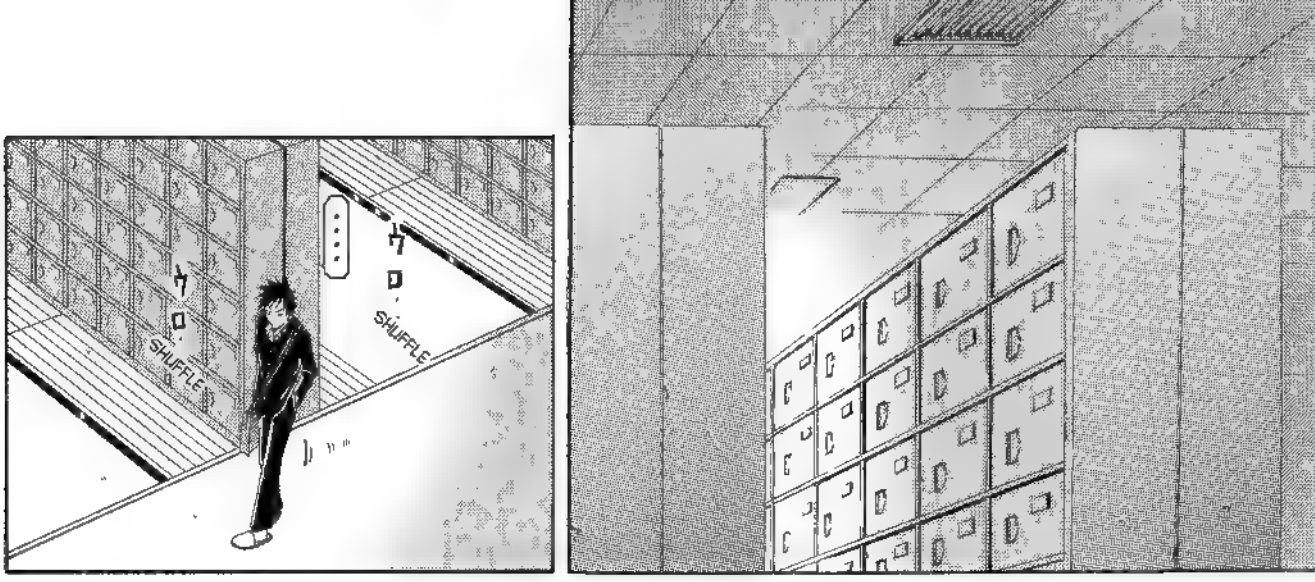
T
S
S
S

ASAHINA...

WON-DER...
...WHAT TIME SHE'LL FINISH.

NICE DAY...
...MY ASS.
T
S
S
S

TSSS
11 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
SIGH.
WHAT AM I DOING?
SHE'S PERFECT THE WAY SHE IS NOW.
HER BOOBS AND HER THIGHS...
HOW MUCH TIME CAN SHE SPEND LIFTING WEIGHTS?
TSSS
RATTLE
RATTLE
IS SHE TRYING TO GET BUFF OR SOME-THING?
GOD, WHAT THE HELL AM I THINKING? I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!
BONK
WHISPER
WHISPER
BONK
FORGET THIS! I'M GOING HOME!
I'M NOT GONNA WAIT AROUND HERE LIKE SOME ASSHOLE!


SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE

"HEY, ASAHINA...I FORGOT MY UMBRELLA. CAN I SHARE YOURS? IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, THAT'S COOL." YEAH, THAT'D WORK.
WH-WHAT WOULD I SAY TO HER ANYWAY?

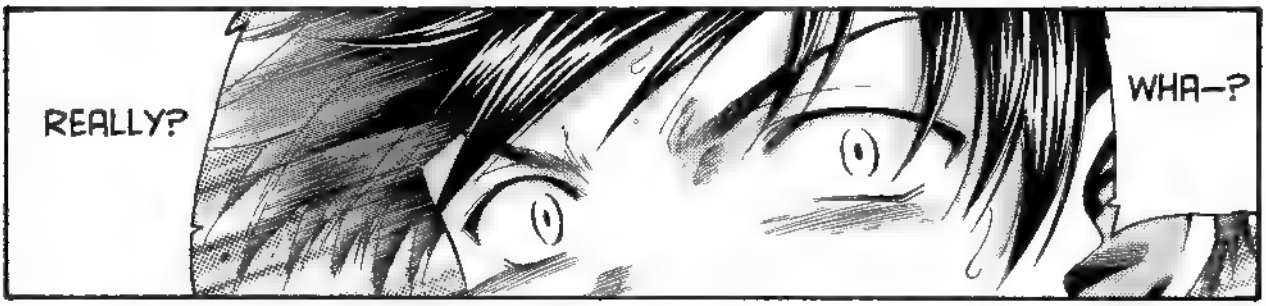
PLUP

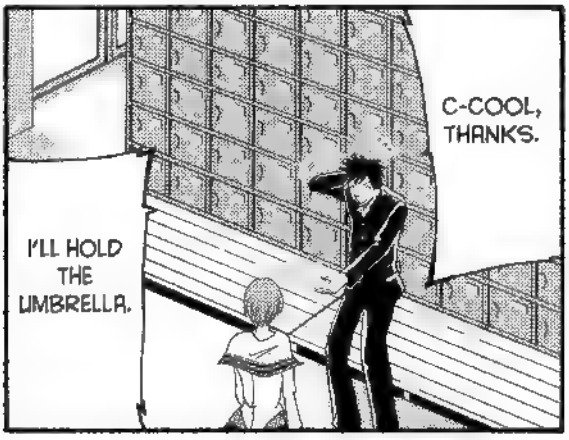
MAN...
IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE IT'S VALENTINE'S DAY, AND I'M WAITING TO SEE IF I GET ANYTHING.

MAYBE I'LL JUST WAIT A LITTLE LONGER

YAMATO-KUN.
SHOCK
ASAHINA!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
I-I COULDN'T GET MY LOCKER OPEN.
LOOKS PRETTY OPEN TO ME.
UH, YEAH... IT JUST OPENED.
WHAT THE HELL AM I SAYING?
.....
DID YOU FORGET TO BRING AN UMBRELLA?

Y-YEAH, ACTUALLY, I DID FORGET MY UMBRELLA. DO YOU THINK I COULD SHARE YOURS? IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, THAT'S COOL...
WANNA SHARE MINE?


REALLY?
WHA—?


C-COOL, THANKS.
I'LL HOLD THE UMBRELLA.

OKAY.
TSS

SURE.
I DON'T MIND.

TSSS
.....
.....
GUESS IT'S A SPRING STORM.
S-SURE IS...
...WINDY.
TSSSTP
SO MAYBE TOMORROW IT'LL WARM UP
.....
.....
YEAH.
.....
YEAH.

SHE MUST BE IN A BAD MOOD.
HATTORI IS SO FULL OF IT.

HUH?

AND, WHEN SUZUKA-CHAN SAW YOU RUN LIKE THAT, SHE TOOK NOTICE.

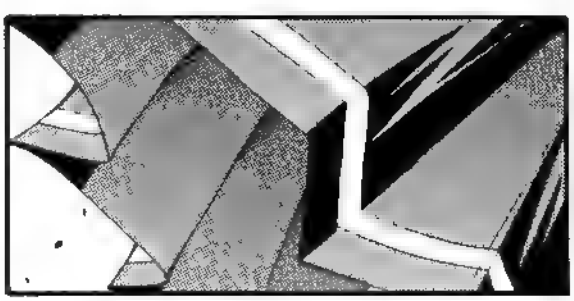
Y-YEAH, I GUESS.
I LOOKED PRETTY COOL, DIDN'T I?

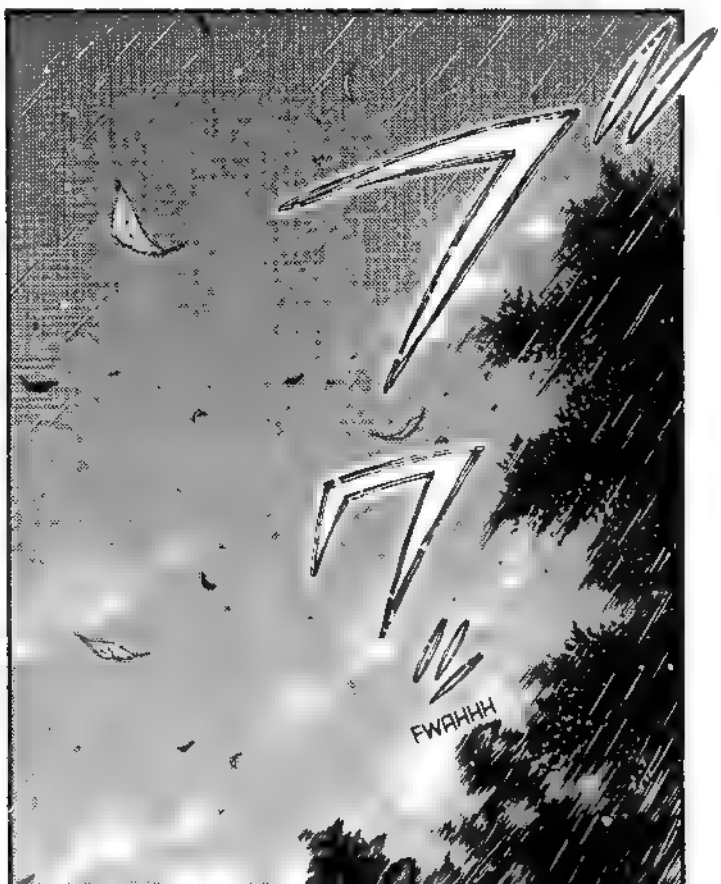
...YAMATO-KUN...
YOU'RE... REALLY FAST.

.....
...YEAH.
コク
NOD

HUH?
ドキ
THUMP
THUMP

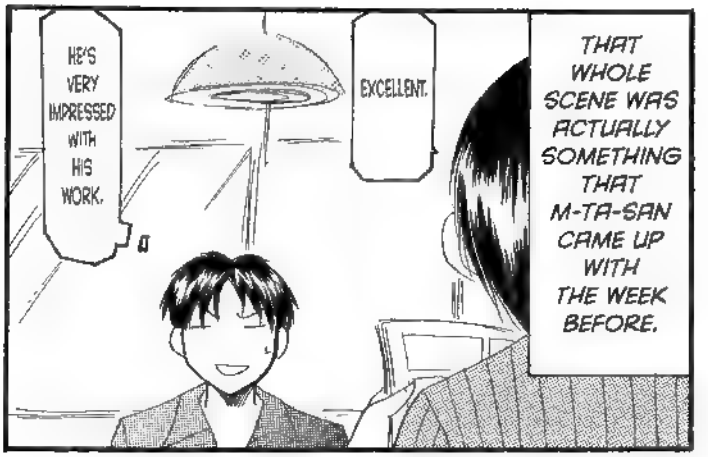
AH...
ASAHINA!
モゾ
WOBBLE
KYA!




FWAHHH

AH...
S-SORRY- THE UMBRELLA JUST-
PLOP
...EH?
WHAT?

SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER NUMBER SIX
MR. FORGETFUL



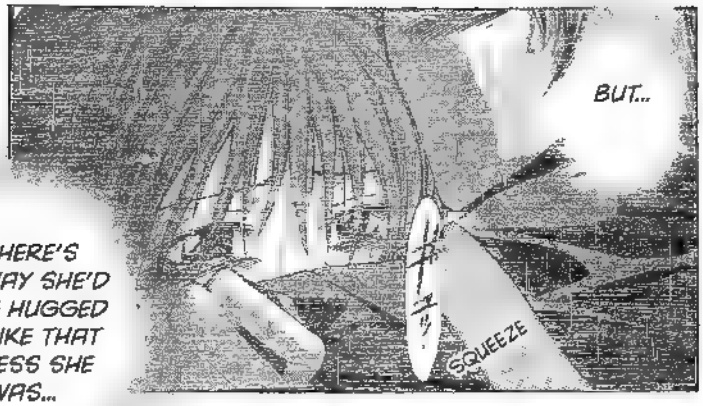
UH, UM... SAHINA?

#7 The Secret
ザァァァァ…
TSSS
Suzuka

301

NHK 3.5

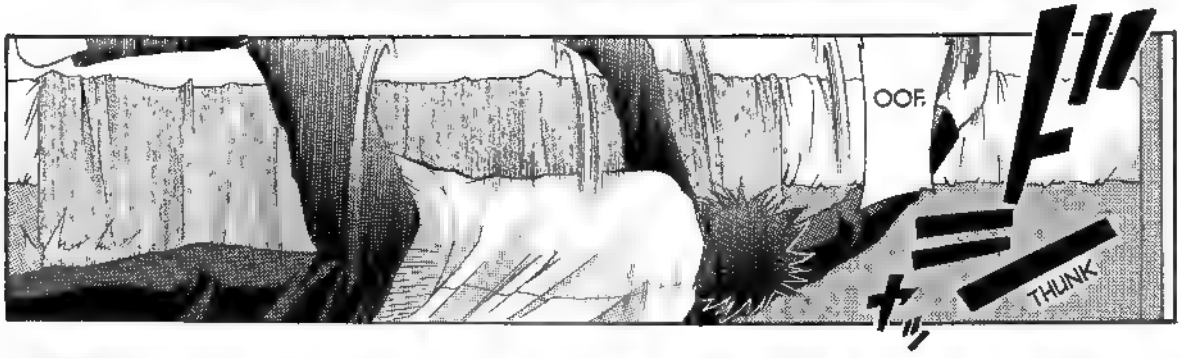
YAMATO AKITSUKI



SHE DIDN'T FEEL THAT BUFF CONSIDERING ALL THAT WEIGHT TRAINING SHE DOES.
SHE HAS SUCH A TINY LITTLE WAIST.

YAHOO!
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL

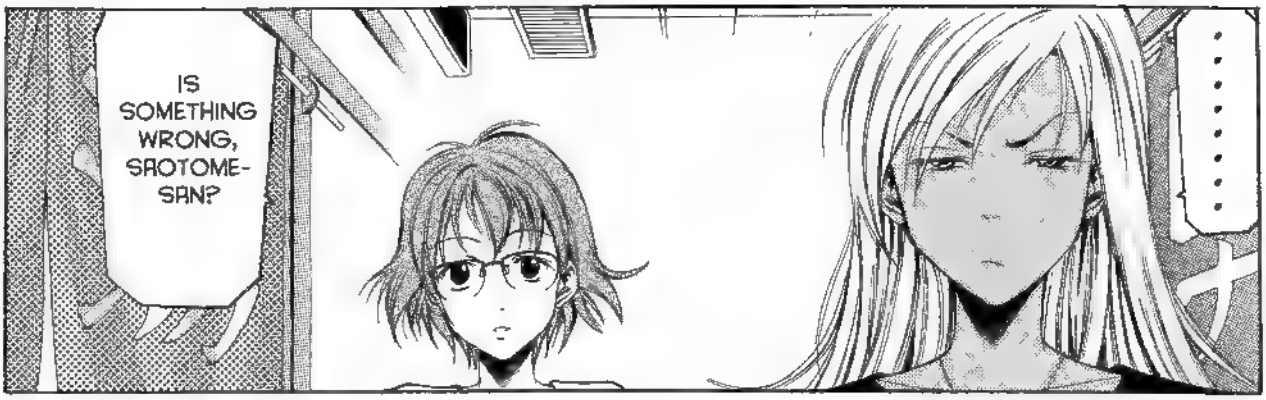
AND HER HAIR SMELLED SO GOOD.
WHOOPIE!
ROLL
ROLL


OOF.
THUNK

HEY, YAMATO-KUN! GO DOWN AND REFILL THE BOILER.
AH. OKAY.

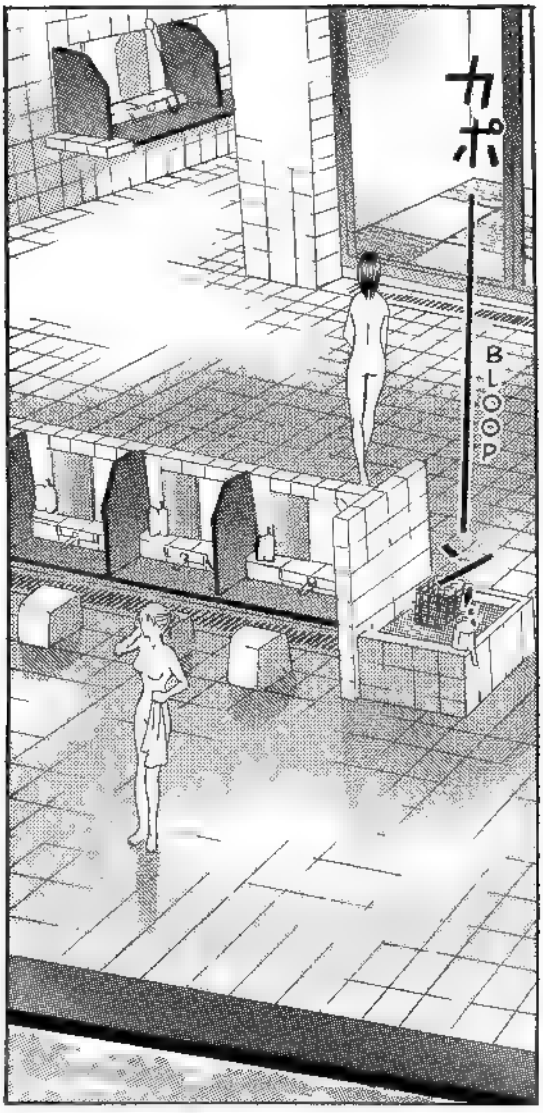
AH, SUZUKA-ASAHINA...
.....

BATH
THAT'LL BE OUR LITTLE SECRET.
ASAHINA AND ME UNDER THE SAME UMBRELLA.
HEY, YAMATO-KUN.
MEOW.
BATH
YUUKA-SAN.
WHAT'RE YOU SO HAPPY ABOUT?
SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN AT SCHOOL?
WHA—
ギク
SHOCK
LADIES BATH
HEY, WAIT!
WHAT'RE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?
NOTHING HAPPENED!


IS SOMETHING WRONG, SAOTOME-SAN?
.....

WHY? HE'S A GOOD KID.
LOOK AT THAT WEIRD GRIN ON HIS FACE. DOESN'T IT GROSS YOU OUT MEGUMI-CHAN?

ゴゥーン
VWIIN
THAT CHICK S SO SCARY.
I CAN'T EVEN SMILE AROUND HER.


カポ
B L O O P

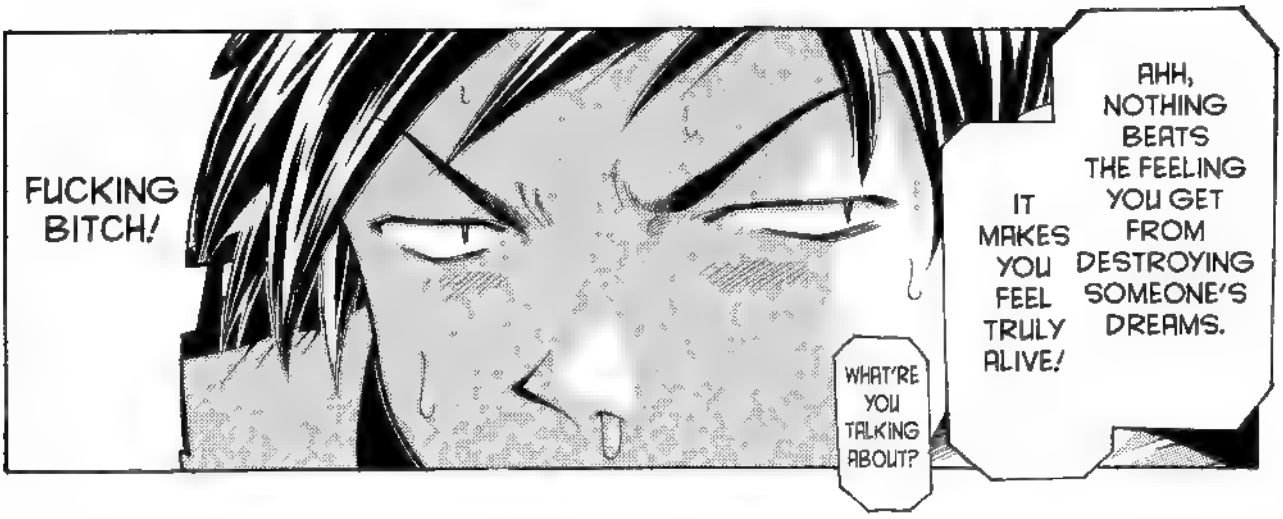
I'M NOT GONNA LET THAT STUPID BITCH MAKE FUN OF ME!
WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN ME AND ASAHINA IS A SECRET.

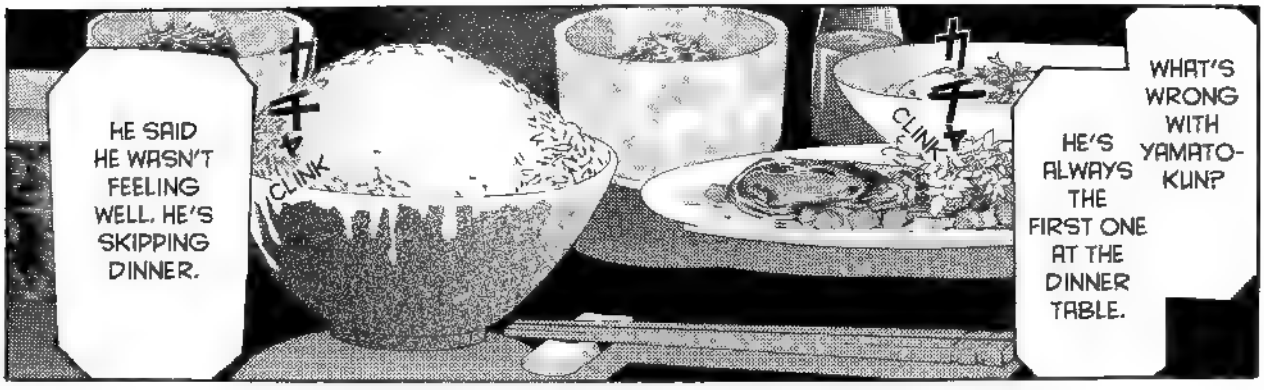
AH...
ASAHINA'S IN THERE TOO?
HUH?
WAH! YOUR LEGS ARE SO SKINNY, SUZUKA-CHAN!
I'M NOT SKINNY.
YEAH.
GIRLS WHO DO TRACK ARE ALWAYS SKINNY.
WHAT ABOUT ME?
AH-CHOO!
AH, DID YOU CATCH A COLD, SUZUKA-CHAN?
SHUT UP, YOU PERVERT!
SPLASH
YEAH, YOU'RE SKINNY ALL RIGHT, AND YOU'RE FLAT AS A BOARD
JUST LIKE A LITTLE KID

HUH?
ARE YOU OKAY?
I SAW YOU WALKING HOME. YOU WERE TOTALLY SOAKED.
SH-SHUT UP, MEGUMI-SAN!
SHIVER
DIDN'T YOU USE IT?
BUT I SAW YOU LEAVE WITH AN UMBRELLA.
ASAHINA HATES TALKING ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT.
SHE WON'T SAY ANY-THING.
. . . . . .
. . .

WHAT?
SHOCK
YAMATO-KUN FORGOT HIS UMBRELLA, SO WE WALKED HOME TOGETHER.
I DIDN'T WANT HIM TO CATCH COLD AGAIN, AND THEN BLAME IT ALL ON ME.
THEN A GUST OF WIND CAME AND BLEW MY UMBRELLA AWAY, AND WE BOTH GOT SOAKED.
A-HA! SO THAT'S IT.
BLINK
WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL ME? I WOULD'VE BROUGHT YOU AN UMBRELLA.
NOW YOU'RE GONNA END UP WITH A COLD.
YOU'RE GETTING OUT ALREADY, SAOTOME-SAN?
SPLASH

カチャ
HUH?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE ALL EXCITED JUST BECAUSE WE GET TO WALK HOME WITH HER.
HOW LAME.
TOO BAD.
WAH
!
バァン


FUCKING BITCH!
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IT MAKES YOU FEEL TRULY ALIVE!
AHH, NOTHING BEATS THE FEELING YOU GET FROM DESTROYING SOMEONE'S DREAMS.


HE SAID HE WASN'T FEELING WELL. HE'S SKIPPING DINNER.
CLINK
CLINK
HE'S ALWAYS THE FIRST ONE AT THE DINNER TABLE.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YAMATO-KUN?

OKAY.
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE HIS DINNER TO HIS ROOM AFTER WE F NISH, MIHO?

.....

HE'S ROUNDING SECOND! THE CATCHER CAN'T SEEM TO LET GO OF THE BALL.
OH NO, NOT ANOTHER COLD, I HOPE.
HE CAME HOME SOAKING WET AGAIN TODAY, AND HE HASN'T EVEN TAKEN A BATH.

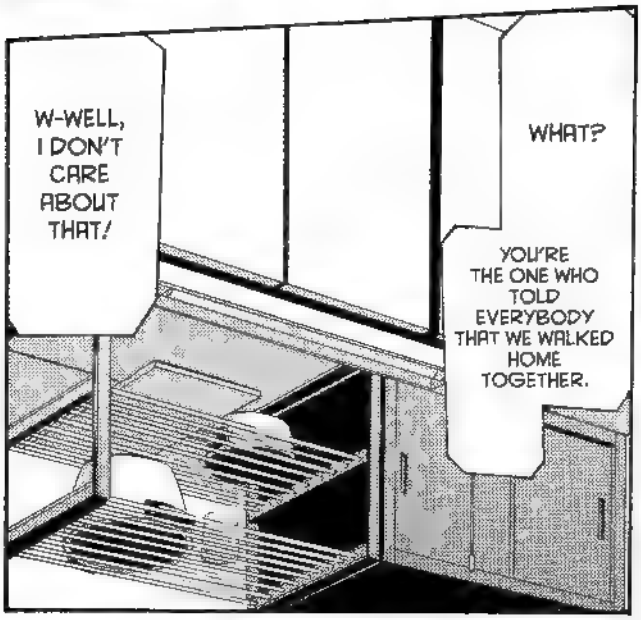
......
ぶっす
GRR
SHIT! WHY DID ASAHINA HAVE TO OPEN HER BIG MOUTH...
I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND WOMEN...
SO IT DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING TO HER?
FWACK
I GUESS THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS.
FWACK
ブルル
BUZZ
DAH-DAH
DAH-DAH
DA-DUM DA-DUM
ボフッ
FWUP
WHY IS MY RING-TONE SET TO THE JAWS THEME?
DA-DUM
DA-DUM

WHO IS IT, YASU-NOBU?
WOO
WOO
ARE YOU OKAY, MAN?
DON'T EVER MESS AROUND WITH MY PHONE AGAIN!
SHOCK
YOU IDIOT!
DID YOU WALK HOME WITH SUZUKA-CHAN?
YEAH, YEAH. SO ANYWAY, WHAT HAPPENED?
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A NO.
.....
BEEP BEEP
.....!!
GO TO HELL!
BLIP
ピンポーン
DING DONG
DING DONG
GOD DAMN IT! THIS IS ALL HIS FAULT.
TCH, GREAT... IT'S PROBABLY THAT BITCH YUUKA AGAIN.
GLARE

JUST LEAVE ME ALONE! WHY CAN'T YOU LET ME SUFFER IN PEACE?
WHAT'S WITH THE ATTITUDE? WAS SHE TRYING TO BRING YOU SOME DINNER
DO YOU NEED SOMETHING?
OSAMU

THAT WHOLE THING PROBABLY MEANT NOTHING TO ASAHINA...
HUH?
LOOK AT ME...ONE MINUTE I'M ON CLOUD NINE, AND THE NEXT I'M ALL DEPRESSED... AND IT'S ALL HER FAULT.
OH, UH... THANKS.
...H-HARD-BOILED EGGS?
TAMAGOZAKE AND...
WHY?
JUST THE TAMAGOZAKE AND THE HARDBOILED EGGS.
HUH? YOU MEAN YOU MADE THIS?
TH-THIS TIME I FOLLOWED THE RECIPE WORD FOR WORD, SO...
I'M PRETTY SURE IT CAME OUT RIGHT.
HUH?
WELL, I HAD SOME EGGS LEFT OVER FROM BEFORE, AND... WAS HOPING THIS WOULD MAKE YOU KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.

...EH?


W-WELL, I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT!
WHAT?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD EVERYBODY THAT WE WALKED HOME TOGETHER.

W-WELL... UH...
THEN WHAT CAN I TALK ABOUT?

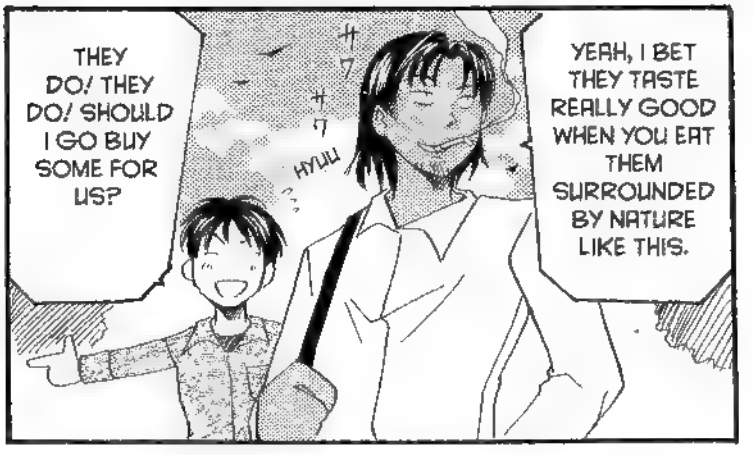
DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT...
...WHAT HAPPENED TODAY!

GOD, ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
I DON'T WANT YOU TELLING ANYONE ABOUT HOW I GRABBED ON TO YOU!
WHA—?
.....
SLAM
YOU IDIOT!

WE DON'T WANT ANYBODY SPREADING RUMORS ABOUT US!
OH YEAH, OF COURSE!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BRIBE ME WITH THIS STUFF. I WOULDN'T HAVE TOLD ANYONE.
I FEEL EXACTLY THE SAME WAY.
WOW. IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE THE REAL THING.
YOU SHOULD'VE SAID SOMETHING SOONER!
I MADE AYANO-SAN GIVE ME HER RECIPE.
WELL, IT BETTER BE.

WAH! I'M SO LUCKY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY COOKED FOR ME, ASAHINA.
CRACK
CRACK
THESE HARDBOILED EGGS LOOK PRETTY GOOD TOO.
THEY SHOULD BE PERFECT
THIS TIME I PUT THEM IN A BOWL OF WATER BEFORE STICKING THEM IN THE MICROWAVE
KA-BOOM
GYAA!
*SUZUKA'S SECOND HOMEMADE DINNER
SOUP: AYANO-STYLE TAMAGOZAKE
DESSERT: EXPLODING HARD-BOILED EGGS (AGAIN)

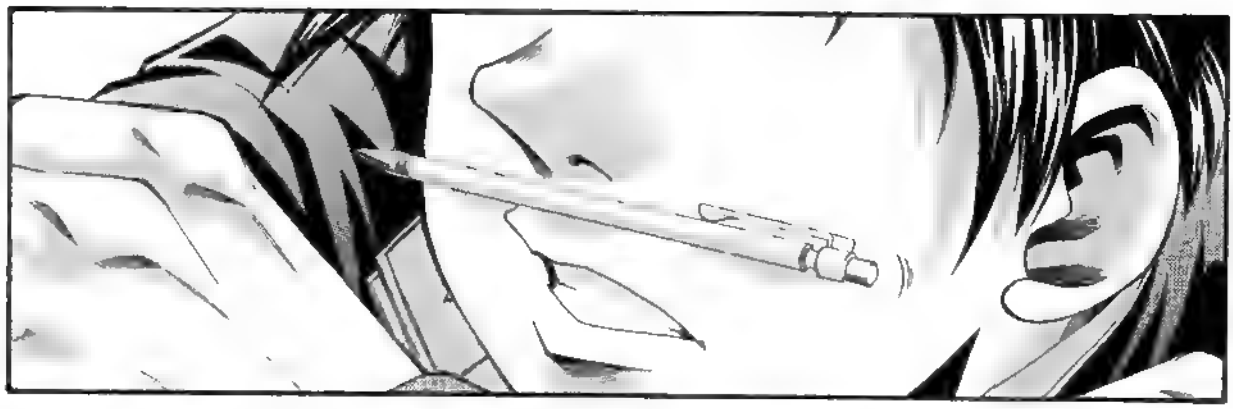
SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER NUMBER SEVEN
TELLING IT LIKE IT IS



カン
CLOP
カン
CLOP
PLOINK
CLOP
旭湯
GET OUT OF THE WAY, GORO-CHAN!
MEOW.
HUH? YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?
LET'S WALK TO SCHOOL TOGE-
SORRY, I'VE GOT PRACTICE THIS MORNING.
OH, OKAY.

Suzuka

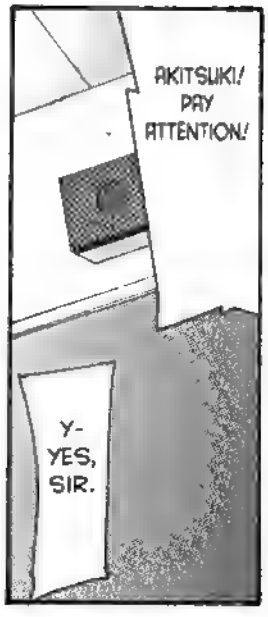
#8 Whirlwind



HEY, YOU! QUIT TALKING.
THERE ARE TWO TYPE OF CELLS, PROKARYOTIC CELLS AND EUKARYOTIC CELLS. BOTH TYPES ARE...
KNOCK
KNOCK
SO THE CELL IS THE BASIC BUILDING BLOCK OF ALL LIVING ORGANISMS.
PAY ATTENTION!

BUT...
...THEN WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

MAN, ASAHINA'S BEEN TOTALLY IGNORING ME LATELY.
EVERY DAY SHE LEAVES EARLY FOR MORNING PRACTICE...
MAYBE SHE JUST DOESN'T LIKE ME.


AKITSUKI! PAY ATTENTION!
Y-YES, SIR.

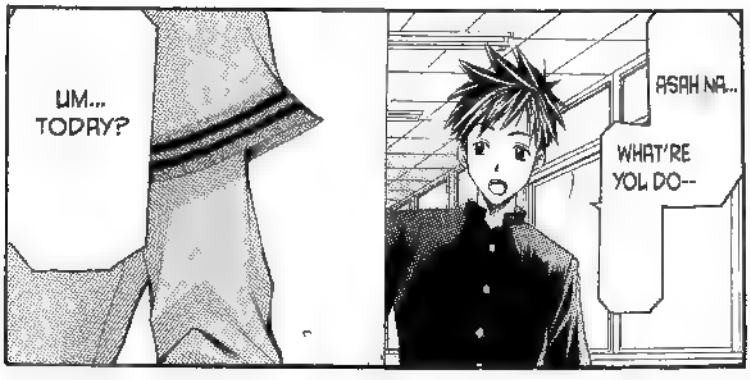
SHE WOULDN'T HAVE HUGGED ME LIKE THAT IF SHE DIDN'T LIKE ME, RIGHT?
THEN AGAIN, SHE DID TELL ME TO KEEP IT A SECRET.

AND, WHEN SUZUKA-CHAN SAW YOU RUN LIKE THAT, SHE TOOK NOTICE.
WELL, ANYWAY... YOU'RE FAST, DUDE.

I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND GIRLS!
DONG

I DON'T KNOW.
.....

BESIDES, THEY PROBABLY JUST MESSED UP WHEN THEY RECORDED MY TIME.
IT'S NOT LIKE SHE'D SUDDENLY FALL IN LOVE WITH ME JUST BECAUSE I'M FAST.


UM... TODAY?
ASAH NA..
WHAT'RE YOU DO--

THERE'S NO WAY I COULD BE THAT FAST...
HUH?

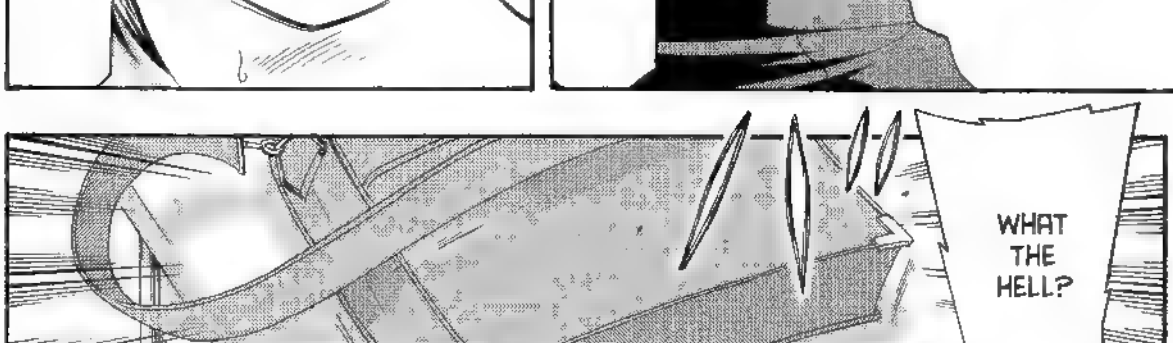
WHO'S SHE TALKING TO?

YEAH, COME ON.
I CAN WAIT TILL YOU'RE DONE WITH PRACTICE. JUST COME ALONG FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
BUT...
H-HE'S HITTING ON HER!
THAT STUPID FOUR-EYED FUCK! HE THINKS HE'S SO COOL.
ASAHINA HATES POSERS LIKE YOU!
GO AHEAD, ASAHINA! SHOOT HIM DOWN!
COME ON, JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE... PLEASE...
SAY NO, ASAHINA! AND BREAK THOSE STUPID GLASSES WHILE YOU'RE AT IT!

REALLY? YOU MEAN IT?
SURE.
I'M GLAD I ASKED. WELL, I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU AFTER PRACTICE.
OKAY.

OKAY...
WHA-?

WHA-?

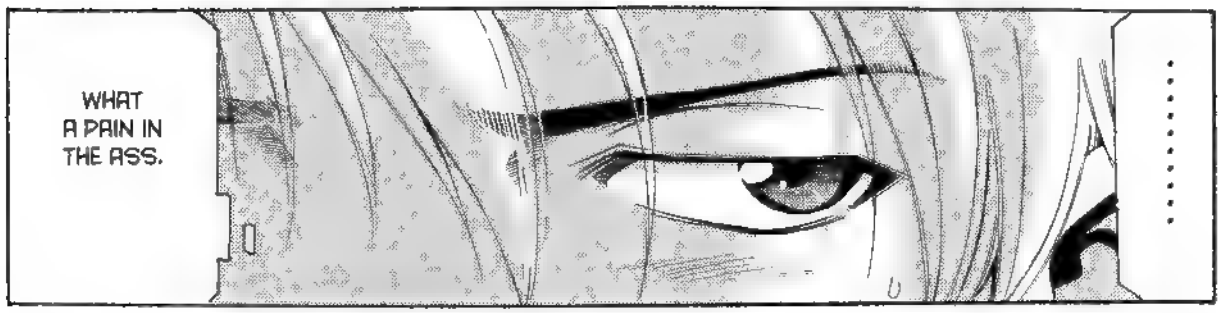

WHAT THE HELL?
THWAP

'SUP. ARE YOU STILL IN A PISSY MOOD?
SHUT UP.

AND SHE WON'T EVEN WALK TO SCHOOL WITH ME!
SLAM

I HAD NO IDEA SHE WAS SUCH A SLUT!
GOD, DOES SHE GO OUT WITH EVERY ASSHOLE WHO COMES KNOCKING?

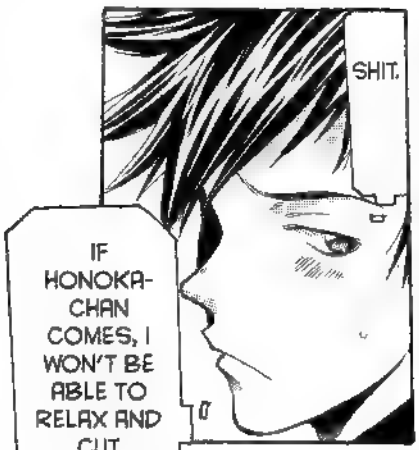
OH, HEY. YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING TODAY, ARE YOU? LET'S GO DO KARAOKE!
I JUST FEEL LIKE SCREAMING TODAY.
WHAT? NO WAY, I'M NOT GOING ON A DATE WITH YOU!
JUST COME!
YOU LIKE KARAOKE, DON'T YOU?


WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS.
.....

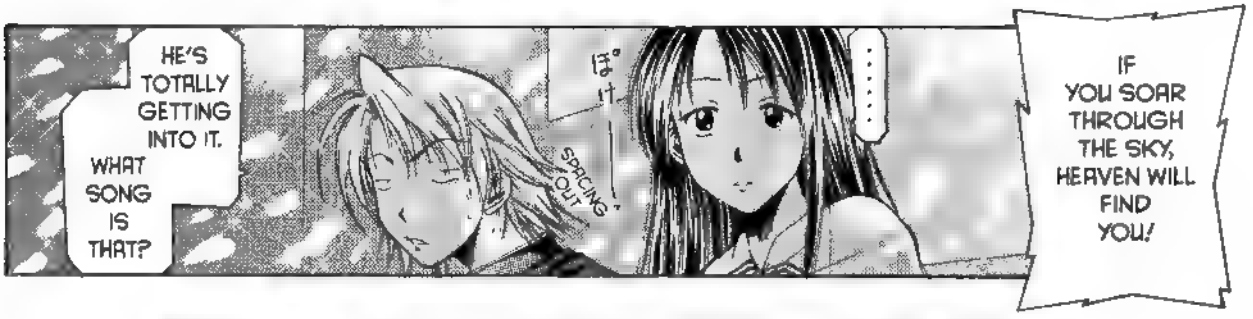
I WANNA GO.
.....

HEY, SAKURAI! YAMATO WANTS YOU TO GO TO KARAOKE WITH HIM.
EH?
WH-WHAT? I SAID I WANTED TO GO WITH YOU...

THE MORE THE MERRIER.
.....


SHIT.
IF HONOKA-CHAN COMES, I WON'T BE ABLE TO RELAX AND CUT LOOSE...

HI-RO-SHI-MAAA CARP!
GO CARP! GO CARP! GO HIROSHIMA CARP!
ズンチャ SCHWIKA
ズンチャ SCHWIKA


HE'S TOTALLY GETTING INTO IT.
WHAT SONG IS THAT?
ぽけ
SPACING OUT
.....
IF YOU SOAR THROUGH THE SKY, HEAVEN WILL FIND YOU!

Y-YEAH.
AHH... NOW I FEEL BETTER! THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I NEEDED.

THIS YEAR VICTORY IS OURS!
YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD SINGER, AKITSUKI KUN.
DA DA DUM
CLAP
パチ
CLAP
THIS IS SO LAME.
FLIP

I'M...
...REALLY GLAD YOU ASKED ME TO COME ALONG.

COME ALONG...
ヒィ
SHIVER
JUST COME ALONG FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
D-DID I SAY SOMETHING WEIRD?
A-AKITSUKI-KUN?
SLUMP
.....
.....
HUH? WHAT?
ちゅー
SLURP
AH... THAT'S MINE...
HUH?
OH, NO...IT'S NOTHING.
カラッ
CLINK

RAMEN
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SING, SAKURA?
WHAT-EVER YOU WANT.
H-HE USED MY STRAW....
BLUSH
IT'S ALMOST LIKE WE KISSED.
.....
IS SHE IGNORING ME?
NO WAY.
A-ARE YOU THIRSTY, AKITSUKI-KUN?
HUH?
YEAH, A LITTLE.
I'LL GO GET SOME SODAS FOR THE TWO OF US.
DID THEY GO SEE A MOVIE?
DID THEY GO SHOPPING?
THE TWO OF...
SHIVER

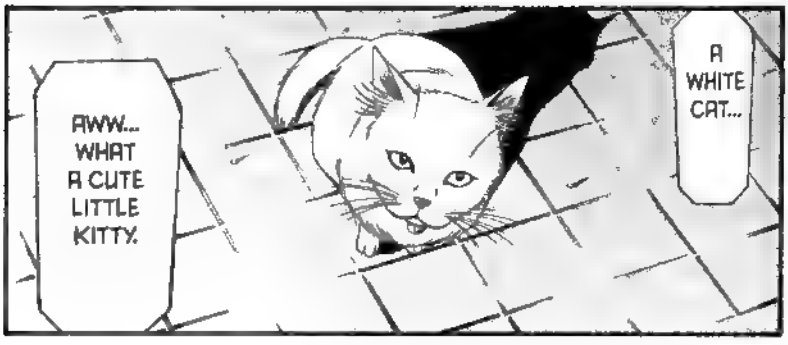
WAAHHHH!
SHOCK
LET'S SEE... #410...
BEEP
OR–
COULD THEY BE DOING–
WAIT!
YANK
OUCH!
I'M GOING HOME!
FWUP
HUH? WHAT? WAIT, AKITSUKI-KUN. I'LL COME WI–
AND I... FEEL SO LONELY... ♪
I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A SONG. SIT DOWN AND LISTEN
IT'S NO FUN SINGING ALONE.
RAMEN
IT'S NO FUN LISTENING TO YOU EITHER.
SLURP
AH!

I SAID LISTEN, SAKURAI!
THIS IS AKITSUKI-KUN'S SODA.
3F
55

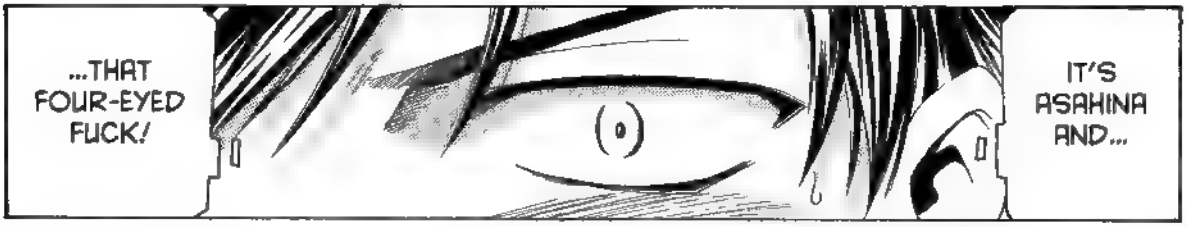
IT'S NOT LIKE I COULD ASK HER WHAT SHE WAS DOING OR ANYTHING.
EVEN IF SHE IS...

I WONDER IF SHE'S BACK YET.

チリ〜ン JINGLE


AWW... WHAT A CUTE LITTLE KITTY.
A WHITE CAT...

GORO-CHAN?
IS THAT...
... YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
HUH?
MEOW.
MEOW.
MEOW
MEOW.
SQUIRM
SQUIRM
MEOW.
I'LL SHOW YOU!
OKAY, I GET IT!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BRAG.
GEEZ...
NO WAY, ARE YOU SERIOUS?
HUH?
AH...


...THAT FOUR-EYED FUCK!
IT'S ASAHINA AND...

GRR
GRR
AND WHY THE HELL DOES ASAHINA LOOK SO HAPPY?
WHAT'S HE HA-HA-HA-ING ABOUT? I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S HERE.

HA, HA HA.

MAYBE THEY'VE BEEN GOING OUT FOR A LONG TIME.
WAIT...

AH... YAMATO-KUN.
HUH?
OUCH!
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
OH, SO YOU MUST BE AKITSUKI-KUN.
ASAHINA'S TOLD ME A LOT ABOUT YOU.
H-HEY...
I-IS HE TRYING TO START SOMETHING? IS HE PISSED THAT ASAHINA AND I SPEND SO MUCH TIME TOGETHER...?
STEP
THIS SUCKS... I'M OUTTA HERE.

I'M SOUICHI MIYAMOTO I'M A SOPHOMORE. I CAME ON BEHALF OF THE TRACK TEAM.
WE WANT YOU TO JOIN THE TEAM.

HUH?
.....

SO, YOU MEAN...
INTRO-DUCE US...

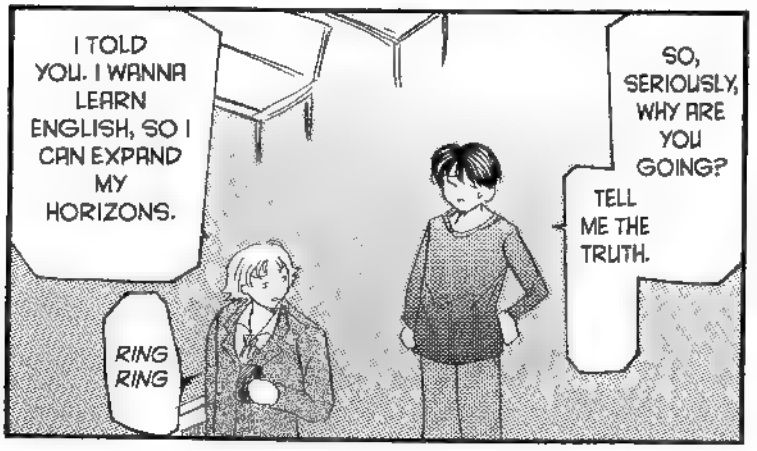
WHEN I MENTIONED THAT I KNEW YOU...
HE ASKED IF I WOULD INTRODUCE YOU GUYS.

.....
WE WENT TO JUNIOR HIGH TOGETHER.
I ASKED ASAHINA TO COME ALONG.
I FIGURED I'D BE KIND OF WEIRD IF SOME GUY YOU DIDN'T KNOW JUST SHOWED UP AT YOUR DOOR, SO...

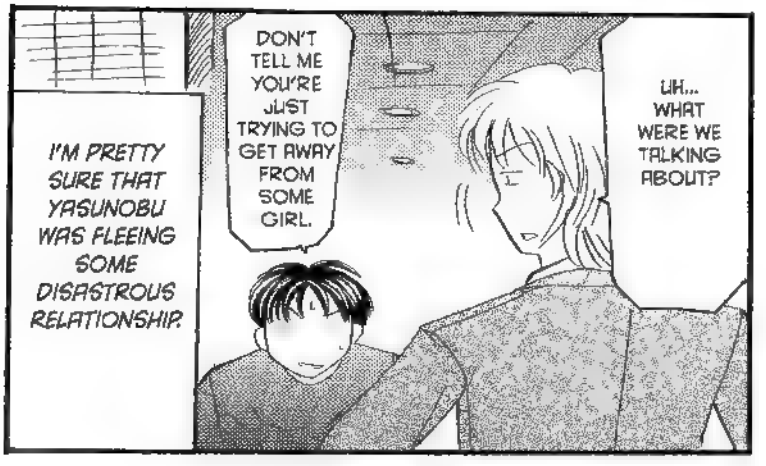
NOPE.
SO, WILL YOU JOIN THE TRACK TEAM?
SO THEY'RE JUST FRIENDS.
O-OH... I GET IT.
WELL, IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.
UH... BUT...
.....
THAT WHOLE FIFTY-METER DASH WAS PROBABLY A MISTAKE. SOMEBODY MUST'VE HIT THE WRONG BUTTON OR SOMETHING.
I DON'T THINK SO.
YOU'VE GOT SUCH TALENT. YOU COULD BE A GREAT SPRINTER.
AH... SENPAI.
WELL, IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'S GONNA WORK OUT TODAY. I'LL COME BACK SOME OTHER TIME.
.....

WELL, IT WAS GOOD TO MEET YOU...
YOU'RE DEFINITELY ASAHINA'S TYPE.
WHA—?
HUH?
GEEZ!
DON'T JOKE AROUND LIKE THAT, YOU JERK!
HA, HA. SEE YOU LATER, AKITSUKI-KUN.
旭湯
ASAHIYU BATHS
AM I REALLY YOUR TYPE?
!!

I—
I KNEW IT!
SO SHE REALLY DOES LIKE ME...!
RH!
ARE YOU OKAY, YAMATO-KUN?
THUD!
THAT HURT
AND I... FEEL SO LONELY... ♪
カチ
CLICK
FIVE MORE MINUTES
NO, YOU IDIOT!
WHACK
UMPPH!



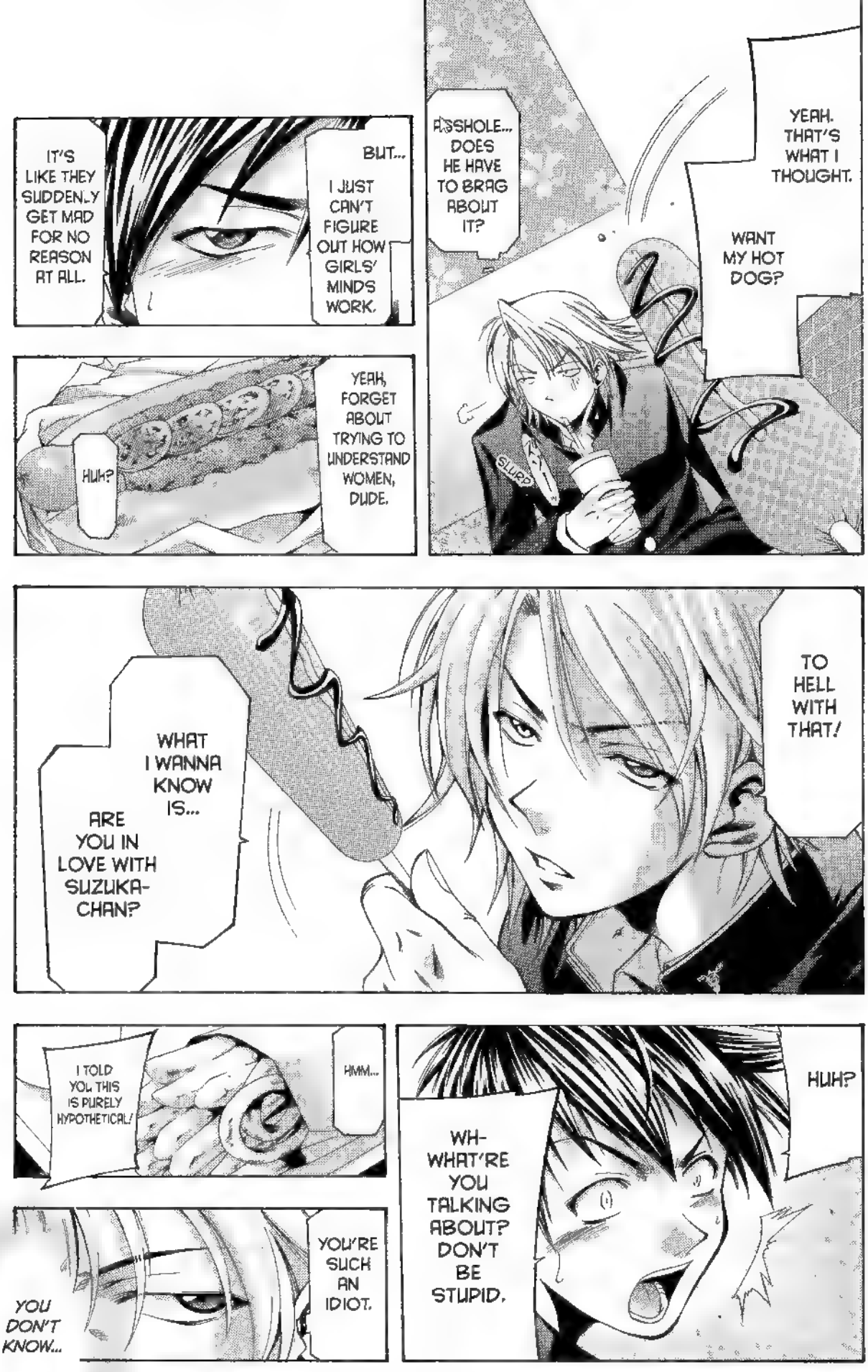
SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER NUMBER EIGHT
THE REASON

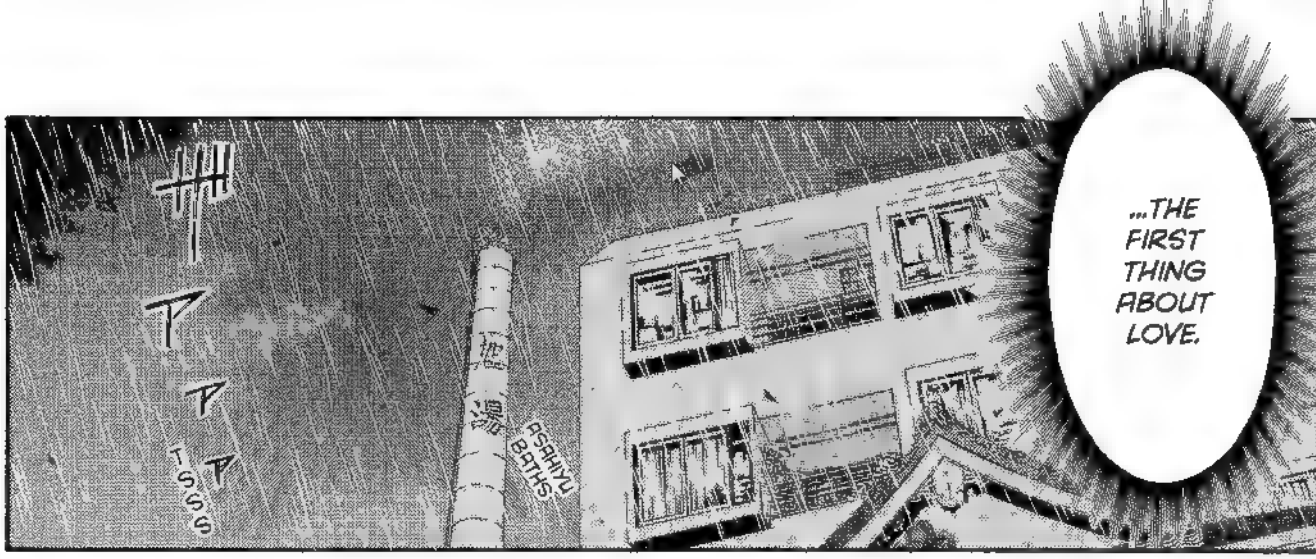


SUZUKA

#9 Self-Awareness

WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN A GIRL HUGS A GUY?
CHOMP
CHOMP
HUH?
CHOMP
I FIGURED YOU MIGHT KNOW.
I MEAN, LIKE, PSYCHOLOGICALLY, WHAT'S GOING ON IN THEIR HEADS?
YEAH.
セット ¥590
PSYCHO-LOGICALLY, HUH?
I GUESS IT MEANS SHE LIKES THE GUY.
THE BAMBOO BURGER SPRING SELECT MENU
¥590
WHY? DID SUZUKA-CHAN HUG YOU OR SOMETHING?
N-NO, THIS IS JUST HYPOTHETICAL.
IT DIDN'T REALLY HAPPEN TO ME OR ANYTHING.
Y-
.....


YEAH. THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
WANT MY HOT DOG?
SLURP
A**HOLE... DOES HE HAVE TO BRAG ABOUT IT?
BUT... I JUST CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW GIRLS' MINDS WORK.
IT'S LIKE THEY SUDDENLY GET MAD FOR NO REASON AT ALL.
YEAH, FORGET ABOUT TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WOMEN, DUDE.
HUH?
TO HELL WITH THAT!
WHAT I WANNA KNOW IS... ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH SUZUKA-CHAN?
HUH?
WH-WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? DON'T BE STUPID.
HMM...
I TOLD YOU, THIS IS PURELY HYPOTHETICAL!
YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT.
YOU DON'T KNOW...


...THE FIRST THING ABOUT LOVE.
ASAHIYU BATHS
TSSS

SPACING OUT

SURE HAS BEEN RAINING A LOT LATELY.
WANT SOME TEA, SUZUKA-CHAN?
NO THANKS, I'M OKAY.
I THINK THERE'S A BIG STORM COMING.
CLANK
MEOW.

I GUESS IT MEANS SHE LIKES THE GUY.

THANKS, FOR DINNER.
YOU'RE WELCOME.
AH...

YEAH...
THAT MUST BE WHAT IT MEANS.

WELL, LET'S CLEAR THE TABLE.
CLANK
301
YAMATO AKITSUKI
THERE GOES ALL MY NEW-FOUND CONFIDENCE.
MAN, WHAT'S WITH HER ATTITUDE?
I MEAN I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT SHE'S THINKING.
I GUESS I'LL NEVER KNOW.
YASUNOBU SOUNDED PRETTY SURE ABOUT IT, BUT...
I WONDER HOW ASAHINA REALLY FEELS ABOUT ME.
HUH?
BLIP
D-DID THE POWER GO OUT?
?
RATTLE
RATTLE
CRASH

I CAN'T SEE A THING!
HEY! YOU, ASAHINA! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
NOW HEADING TO A ROOM THAT'S NOT A HOME OR SOMETHING
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING?
THAT'S QUITE AN ENTRANCE YOU MADE, ASAHINA.
HUH? YEAH, SURE, BUT...
WHY ARE YOU SCARED?
.....
WHAT'S WITH THE BLACK? ANYWAY...
MAYBE THE WIND KNOCKED OVER A POWER LINE OR SOMETHING
SO DON'T GO DOING SO MUCH OUT
NO!

NO.
I CAN'T GO TO SLEEP UNTIL I FINISH MY HOMEWORK
DON'T YOU JUST WANT TO SLEEP
WITHOUT POWER I CAN'T WATCH TV.
AND I CAN'T DO MY HOMEWORK
IF I DO...
THE TEACHER WILL TOTALLY YELL AT ME TOMORROW
WELL, BUT WE EVEN HAVE HOMEWORK TONIGHT
I'LL BE JUST LIKE CHRISTMAS, RIGHT?
I'LL LIGHT THEM UP JUST HOLD ON A SEC

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID IT'D BE LIKE CHRISTMAS.
YOU CALL THIS CHRISTMAS? IT'S MORE LIKE HALLOWEEN!
B-BLOW THEM OUT!
JUST BLOW THEM OUT!
WAH!
THIS IS KIND OF CREEPY.
FWAH
IT'S NOT JUST A NORMAL CANDLE.
IT'S AN AROMATHERAPY CANDLE. DOESN'T IT SMELL GOOD?
WHAT? SO YOU DID HAVE A CANDLE.
THERE. THIS ONE'S MUCH BETTER.
ISN'T IT CUTE?

AROMATHERAPY.
GIRLS LOVE THAT KIND OF STUFF.
I DON'T GET IT.
THAT KIND S PRETTY STRONG.
SHIVER
RATTLE
RATTLE
HUH?
SWIP
YOU ARE SCARED, AREN'T YOU?
N-NO, I DON'T.
YOU KEEP SCOOCHING CLOSER AND CLOSER TO ME.
I HAVEN'T MOVED AN INCH!

?
ガタン
CLANG
ガタン
CLANG
..OH REALLY?
ガク
SHIVER
ニッ
YANK
ガク
SHIVER
A-ASAHINA..
EVERYTHING'S FINE! THE SIGN PROBABLY JUST BLEW OVER.
I- KNOW!
I JUST LOST MY BALANCE, THAT'S ALL.

BUT SHE'S STILL HOLDING ON TO ME.
I'M SERIOUS! DON'T READ ANYTHING INTO IT!
OKAY!
I GUESS EVEN ASAHINA...
...HAS HER WEAKNESSES.
M-MY SISTER! SHE ALWAYS HATED STORMS.
SHE WAS SCARED OF TYPHOONS AND BLACKOUTS...
...ISTER ALWAYS HATED STORMS.
HUH?

HMM
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A SISTER, ASAHINA.
I ALWAYS HAD TO STAY BY HER SIDE WHENEVER THERE WAS A STORM.
SO...
SHE'S SUCH A PAIN IN THE ASS!
YEAH. SHE'S A YEAR OLDER THAN I AM, BUT SHE WAS ALWAYS TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON ME.
THE OTHER DAY, SHE COULDN'T FIND HER SHAMPOO, AND...
SHE BLAMED ME.
HMM... NO KIDDING.
YEAH
I GUESS SHE'S NOTHING LIKE ASAHINA.
.....

YEAH.
I'M LISTENING.
WOW...
HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING, YAMATO-KUN?
AND GUESS WHERE SHE'D LEFT HER SHAMPOO BOTTLE?
IT WAS IN THE KICTHEN CABINET NEXT TO A BOTTLE OF VEGETABLE OIL. I MEAN, HOW STUPID CAN SHE BE?
ASAHINA NEVER TELLS ME PERSONAL STUFF LIKE THIS.
I HAD NO IDEA SHE LIKED AROMA-THERAPY CANDLES, OR...
...THAT SHE HAS A SPACEY OLDER SISTER...
RATTLE
RATTLE
...WHO HATE TYPHOONS AND BLACKOUTS.

THIS WHOLE TIME I'VE BEEN TOTALLY OBSESSING OVER ASAHINA, BUT...
IT TURNS OUT I DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT HER.
I'VE WASTED ALL THIS TIME...
WORRYING ABOUT HOW SHE FEELS ABOUT ME.
WHOA, THAT'S SOME SERIOUS WIND.
BONK
HUH?
RASH

WHA–?
A-
ASAHINA–
M-
MY
LEGS!
MY
LEGS
FELL
ASLEEP!

I-I AM NOT!
D-DON'T WORRY. THAT WAS PROBABLY JUST ANOTHER SIGN.
YOU REALLY ARE A SCAREDY CAT.
...POUNDING LIKE CRAZY.
THUMP
THUMP
Y-YOU'RE THE ONE WHOSE HEART IS...
BECAUSE WHAT?
YEAH?
WAH!
ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH SUZUKA-CHAN?
WHAT I WANNA KNOW IS...
I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE I'M...
.....
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
I'M IN LOVE WITH HER?
THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE—

AH.
BLIP

...BACK ON...
THE POWER IS...

NO...
WAIT!
CLOP
CLOP
WELL, GUESS I'LL BE GOING NOW. SORRY FOR BARGING IN ON YOU LIKE THAT.

FWIP
TH-THANK GOD. THAT WAS ACTUALLY PRETTY QUICK.
UH... YEAH...

UH, UM...
UHHH...
THEY SAY THAT LOVE SNEAKS UP ON YOU.

WH-WHAT?

I STILL HAVE NO IDEA HOW ASAHINA FEELS ABOUT ME. BUT...
N-NEVER MIND!
IF WHAT THEY SAY IS TRUE. THEN...
LOVE MUST HAVE SNUCK UP ON ME...
THE MOMENT I FIRST...
...LAID EYES ON SUZUKA ASAHINA

CHARACTER PROFILE NO. 1

YAMATO AKITSUKI
(HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN)

DATE OF BIRTH—JULY 30 (LEO)
HEIGHT—5'10"
WEIGHT—132 LBS
BLOOD TYPE—O

LIKES
- THE HIROSHIMA CARPS
- THE MEAT AND POTATO CROQUETTES THAT HE EATS AT THE SHRINE.
- ASAHINA WHEN SHE'S BEING NICE

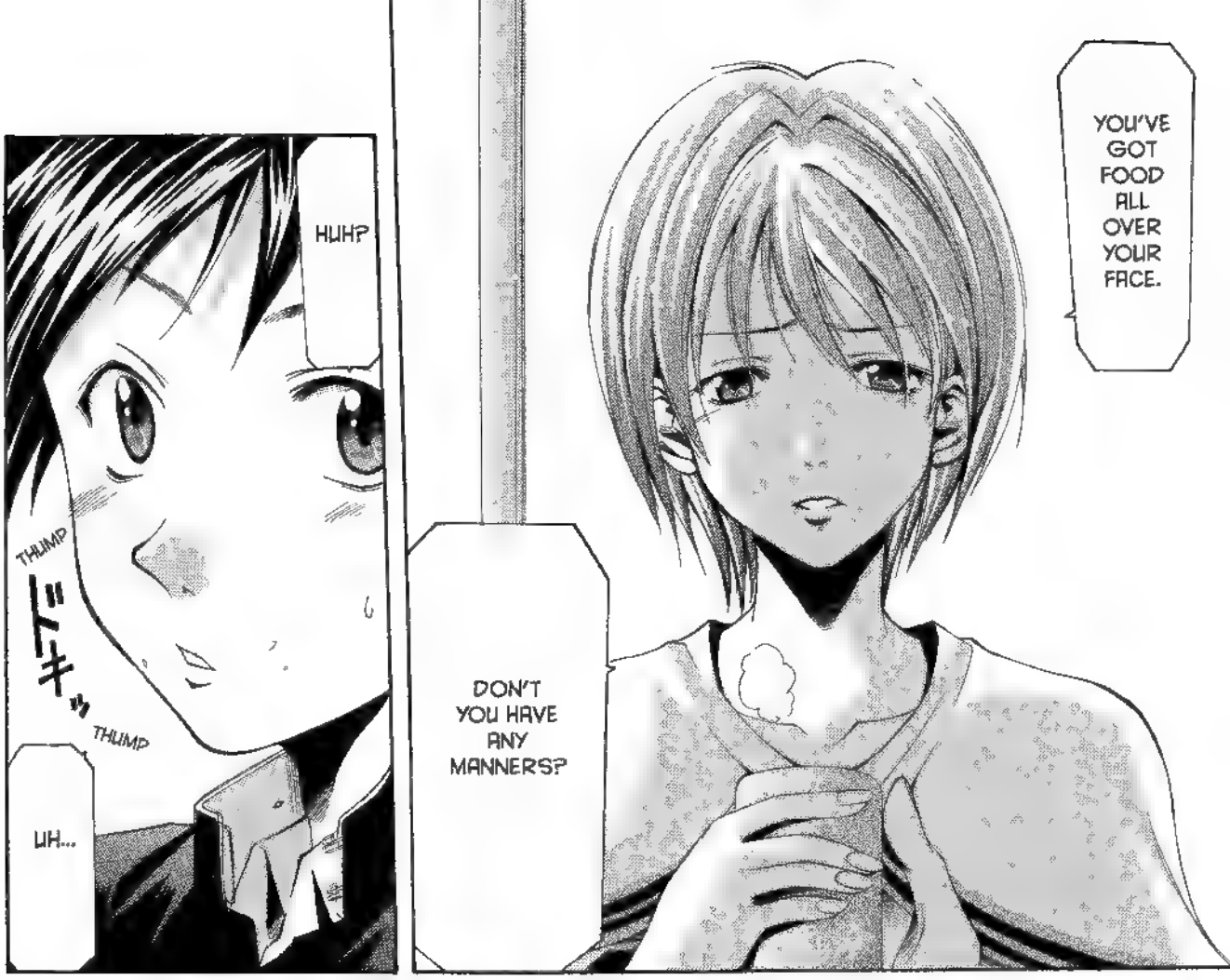
DISLIKES
- HARD WORK
- GREEN ONIONS
- ASAHINA WHEN SHE'S ANGRY

MOTTO—LET FORTUNE COME TO YOU.

IT'S BEEN A MONTH SINCE I LEFT TOKYO.
THE GIRL I LIKE JUST HAPPENS TO BE IN THE SAME CLASS AS ME.
AND WE HAPPEN TO LIVE IN THE SAME APARTMENT COMPLEX.
ASAHIYU BATHS
YAMATO AKITSUKI
CLICK.
YAWN.
IN FACT, IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT SHE'S IN THE ROOM RIGHT NEXT TO MINE.
GOD! YOU COULD AT LEAST WIPE THAT DROOL OFF YOUR CHIN.
EVERY TIME SHE SEES ME, SHE SAYS SOMETHING NASTY.
OH... HELLO.
.....!
UH... OKAY.
YOU'D BETTER HURRY UP, OR AYANO-SAN'LL BE PISSED.
BUT THE MOMENT I LAID EYES ON HER...

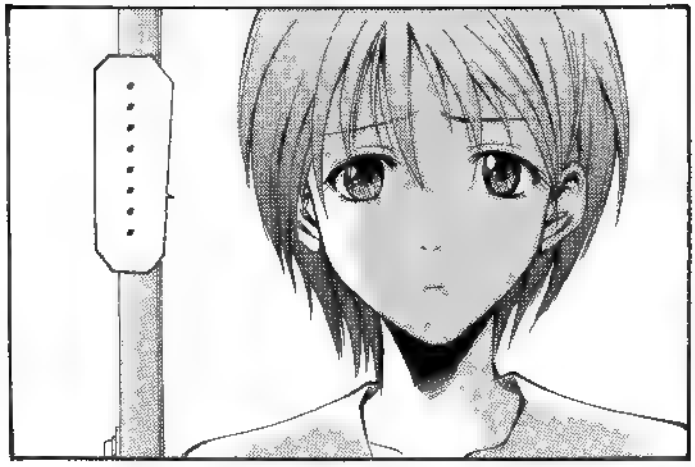
#10 Lovesick

GLANCE
MOM, CAN I HAVE SOME TEA?
OKAY, JUST A SECOND.
HUH?
ARE YOU OKAY, YAMATO-KUN? DO YOU WANT SECONDS?
UH...YES, PLEASE.
...EVERY DAY.
SHE GETS CUTER AND CUTER...

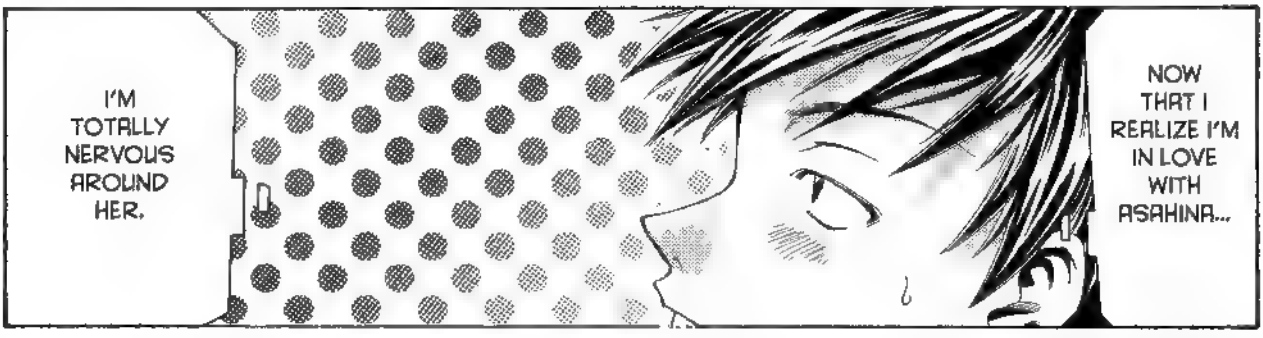

HUH?
THUMP
ドキッ
THUMP
UH...
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY MANNERS?
YOU'VE GOT FOOD ALL OVER YOUR FACE.

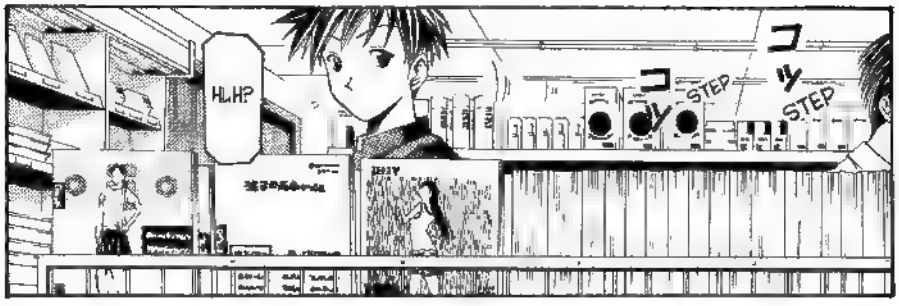
AH, I THOUGHT YOU WANTED SECONDS, YAMATO-KUN.
UH...MAY I BE EXCUSED?

SH-SHUT UP! I CAN'T HELP IT. I'M STARVING!
....?
CHOMP
パク
パク
CHOMP


.....

WHAT AM I GONNA DO?


I'M TOTALLY NERVOUS AROUND HER.
NOW THAT I REALIZE I'M IN LOVE WITH ASAHINA...

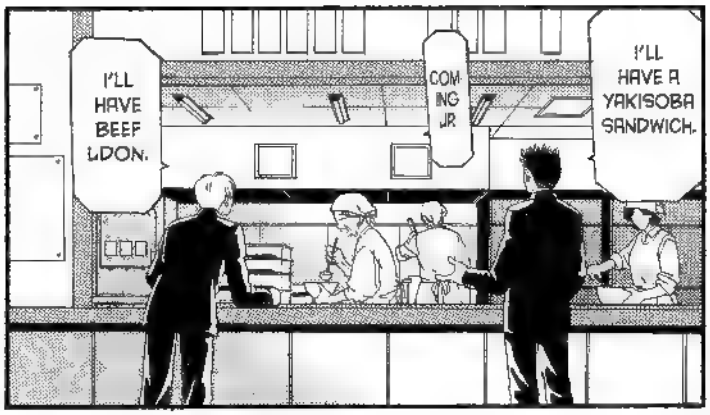

HUH?
コツ STEP
コツ STEP

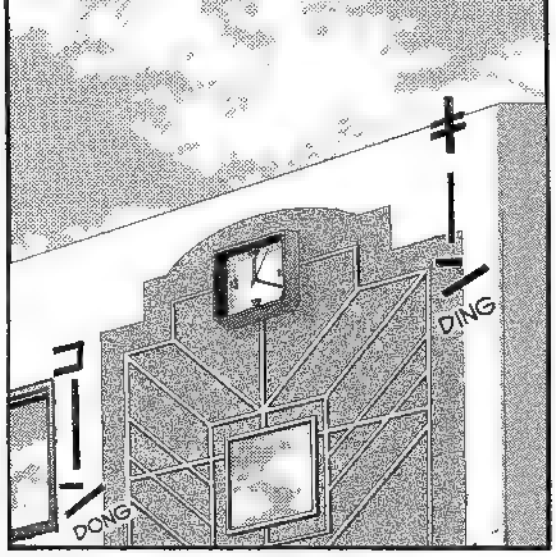
GREAT... I'M STILL HUNGRY. NOW I'LL HAVE TO BUY BREAKFAST.
EVEN THOUGH I'M PRACTICALLY BROKE.
手づくりパー

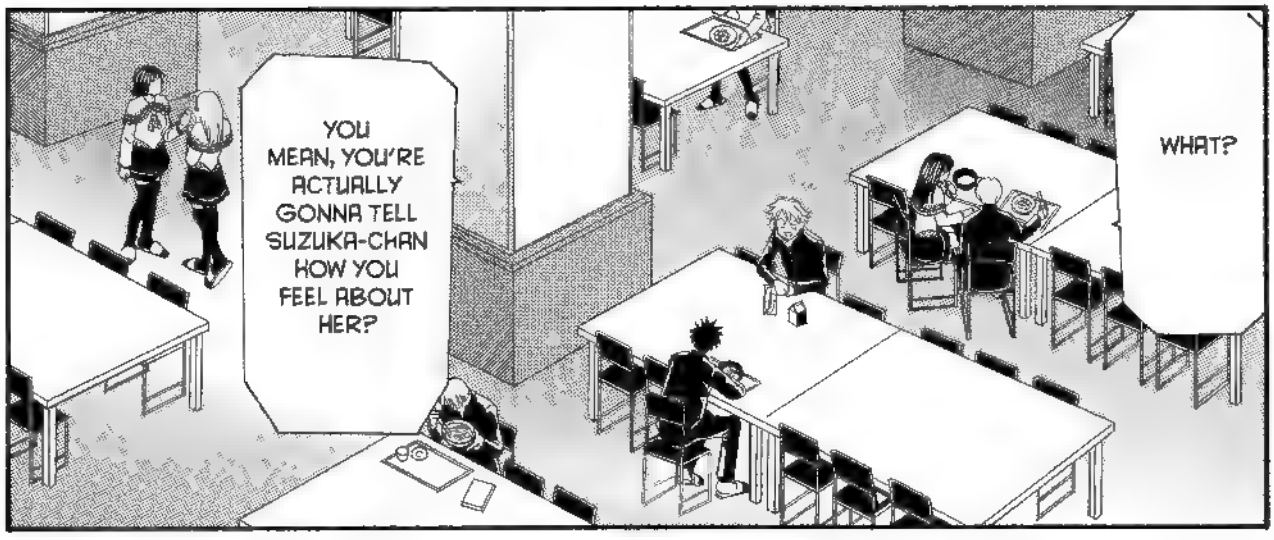
ROMANCE HORO-SCOPE?
HOW LAME...LIKE I'D REALLY BELIEVE SOME STUPID HOROSCOPE.
パラッ FLIP

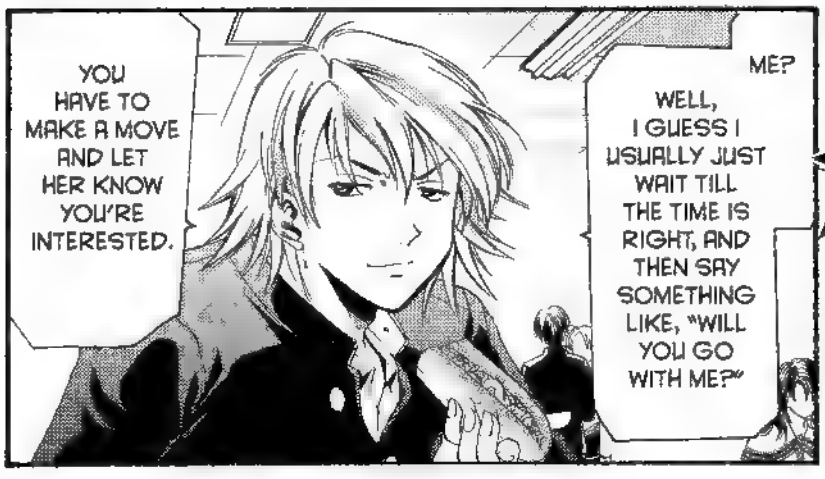
SPRING ROMANCE HOROSCOPE
WILL YOU BE LUCKY IN LOVE?
12星座占い
おまじない百科
安部晴明の陰陽師占い
天中殺
幸運をGET
春の新色コスメ

HUH?
THIS MONTH'S LUCKY SIGN IS LEO.
THAT'S ME! I WAS BORN ON JULY 30TH.
"THIS IS THE PERFECT TIME TO BECOME MORE INTIMATE WITH THAT CERTAIN SOMEONE."
NO WAY!
"WEARING BLUE PANTIES WILL MAKE YOUR LUCK EVEN BETTER." PANTIES?
WAIT, I THINK I'M WEARING MY BLUE UNDER-WEAR.
. . . . . .
TELL HER HOW I FEEL?
"THIS IS YOUR OPPOR-TUNITY...
"...TO MAKE YOUR FEELINGS KNOWN."
YEAH, RIGHT!
LIKE I'M JUST GONNA WALK RIGHT UP TO HER, AND SAY "I LOVE YOU"? HEY!
HEH, ha!
THWAP
I HOPE YOU'RE PLANNING ON BUYING THAT.
OH, UH.. SORRY.


I'LL HAVE BEEF UDON.
COMING UP.
I'LL HAVE A YAKISOBA SANDWICH.

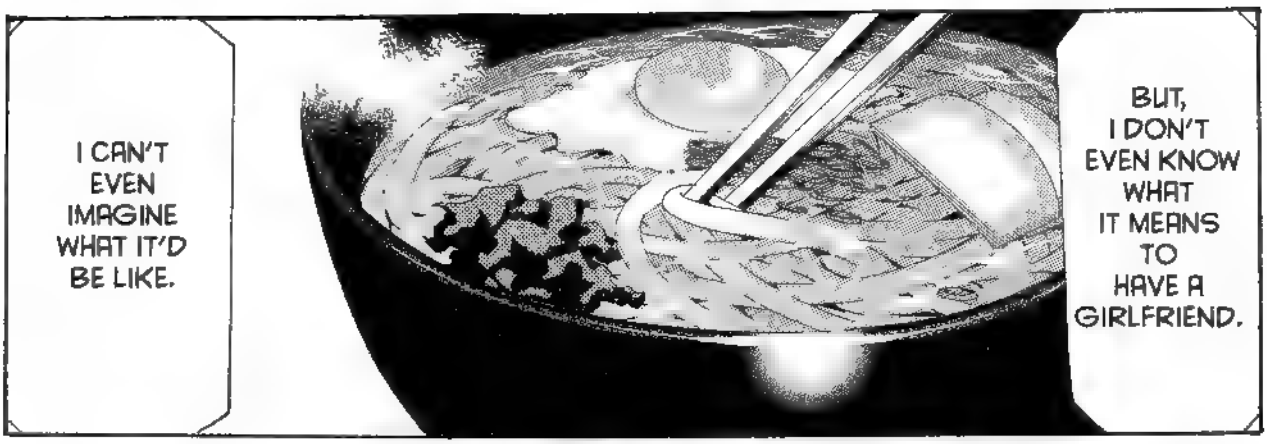

DING
DONG


YOU MEAN, YOU'RE ACTUALLY GONNA TELL SUZUKA-CHAN HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT HER?
WHAT?


YOU HAVE TO MAKE A MOVE AND LET HER KNOW YOU'RE INTERESTED.
ME?
WELL, I GUESS I USUALLY JUST WAIT TILL THE TIME IS RIGHT, AND THEN SAY SOMETHING LIKE, "WILL YOU GO WITH ME?"

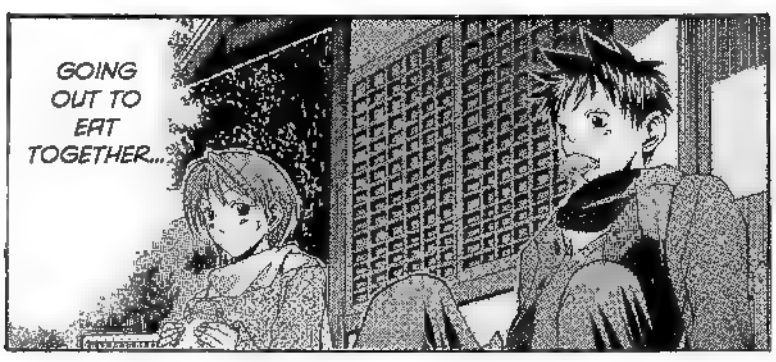
I TOLD YOU, THIS ISN'T ABOUT ME!
I JUST WANNA KNOW IF YOU'VE EVER ASKED SOMEONE TO BE YOUR GIRLFRIEND. WHAT DID YOU SAY TO HER?

I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO TELL HER.
HMM...

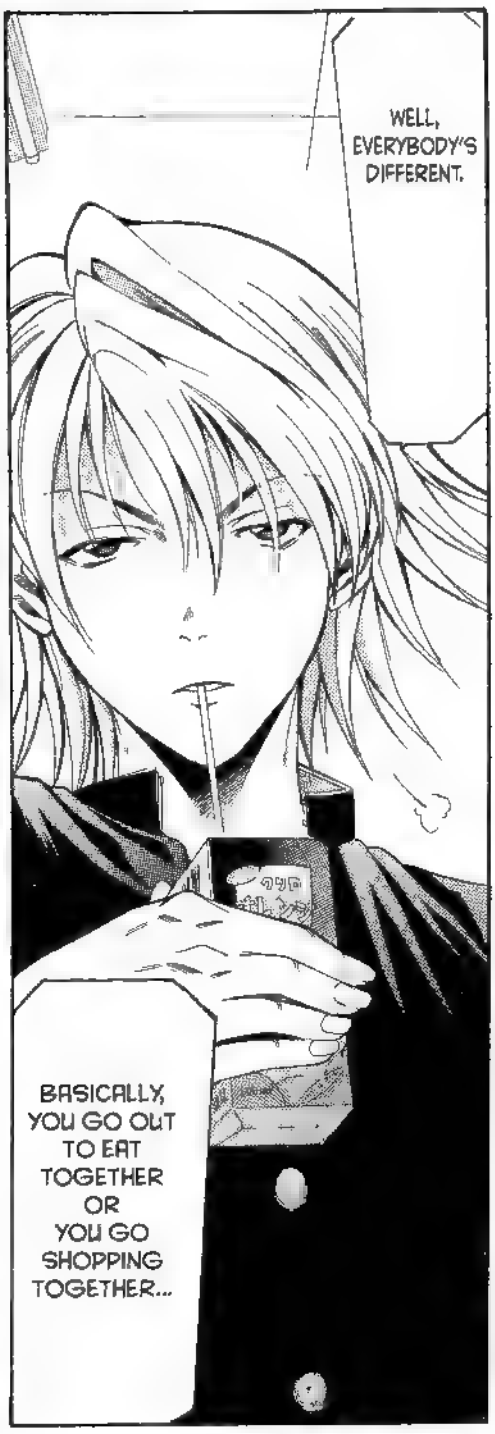

I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE WHAT IT'D BE LIKE.
BUT, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE A GIRLFRIEND.

.....

SHOPPING TOGETHER...


GOING OUT TO EAT TOGETHER...

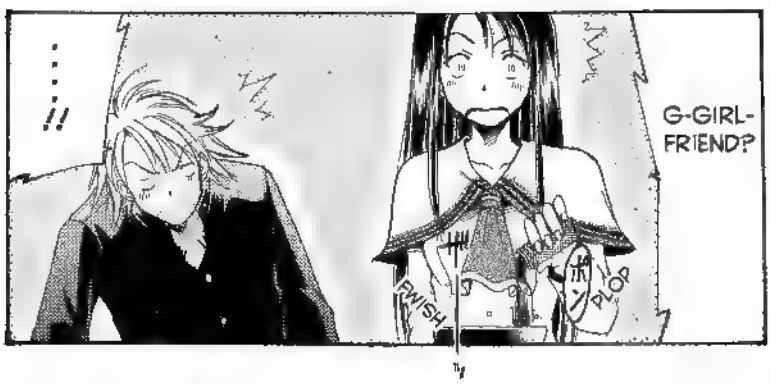
YOU HAVE MUCH TO LEARN, MY SON.
WE ALREADY DO THAT!

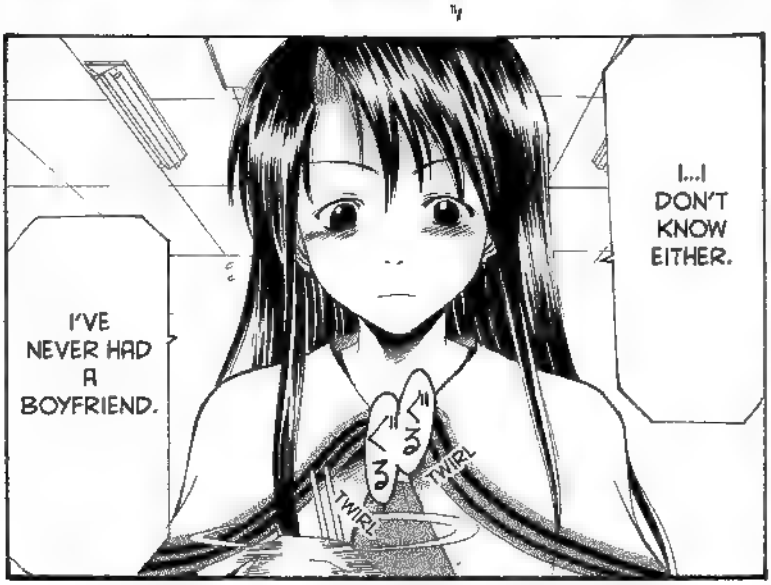

WELL, EVERYBODY'S DIFFERENT.
BASICALLY, YOU GO OUT TO EAT TOGETHER OR YOU GO SHOPPING TOGETHER...

UH, UM...
MIND IF I JOIN YOU?
HUH?
SURE, HAVE A SEAT, SAKURAI.
HMM...
AH, YOU'RE HAVING UDON TOO, AKITSUKI-KUN?
ISN'T IT GOOD?
CLINK
UH... YEAH.
WHAT'S WRONG?
SHAKE
SHAKE
IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?

HUH?
ピキ SHOCK ーン
HAVE YOU EVER ASKED A GUY TO BE YOUR BOYFRIEND, HONOKA-CHAN?

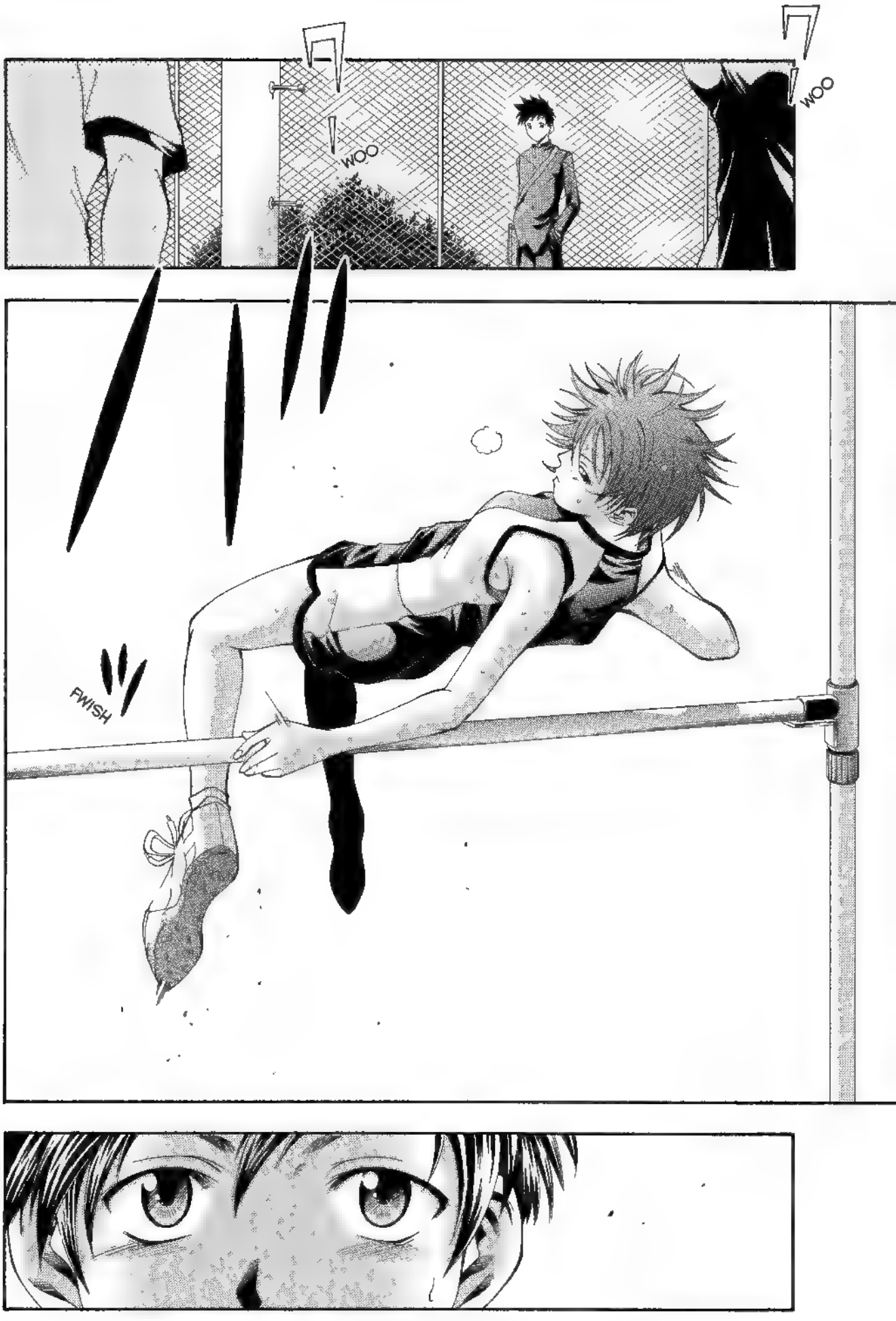
I DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT RELATION-SHIPS.
SLURP
すぼー!
WHAT'S IT LIKE TO HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?


……!!
G-GIRL-FRIEND?
PLOP
ポン
FWISH


I'VE NEVER HAD A BOYFRIEND.
TWIRL
TWIRL
I...I DON'T KNOW EITHER.

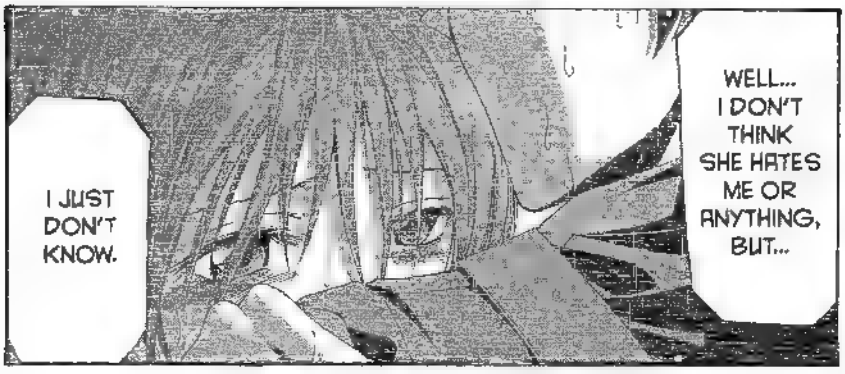
WHA—
HUH?
BOYFRIEND?
WHOA... EASY ON THE CHILI PEPPER THERE, SAKURAI.
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE

A-AKITSUKI-KUN.
THAT'S GONNA BE ONE SPICY BOWL OF UDON.
カリ CLINK
SORRY FOR ASKING SUCH A WEIRD QUESTION.
OH...
HAVE SOME WATER.
COUGH
COUGH..
ゴフッ
ゴフッ
!
ドキドキ THUMP THUMP
ちゅるる SLURP
IT WASN'T ME!
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO, HATTORI-KUN?


WOO
WOO
FWISH

SIGH...
SHE ALWAYS LOOKS SO HAPPY WHEN SHE'S DOING THE HIGH JUMP.
TOING
YOU CLEARED THAT ONE PRETTY EASILY, ASAHINA.
YEAH!
WAH! OH NO!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
YAMATO-KUN?
RUSTLE

I GUESS WE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO THAT STUFF ANYMORE.
EATING TOGETHER... SHOPPING TOGETHER...
IF I TELL ASAHINA HOW I FEEL AND SHE TURNS ME DOWN...


I JUST DON'T KNOW.
WELL... I DON'T THINK SHE HATES ME OR ANYTHING, BUT...

SHE COULD SAY YES?
SO I GUESS IT'S POSSIBLE THAT...

MAN, I'D BETTER ASK YASUNOBU ABOUT IT.
WHISPER
WHISPER
THEN WHAT WOULD I DO?

12
9
3
SEIKO

IF I DON'T MAKE A MOVE...
WELL, I GUESS HE'S RIGHT.
YOU HAVE TO MAKE A MOVE AND LET HER KNOW YOU'RE INTERESTED.
...HOW SHE FEELS ABOUT ME.
I'LL NEVER KNOW...
SHOCK
YAMATO-KUN!
AH...
I'VE GOT TO...
...TELL ASAHINA THAT I'M IN LOVE WITH HER.

THANK GOD, I CAUGHT UP WITH YOU!
A-ASAHINA!
WHAT ABOUT PRACTICE?
WE FINISHED EARLY TODAY.
SO I THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD GO SHOPPING TOGETHER. THAT'S WHY I RAN AFTER YOU.
O-OH...
.....

.....
IF SHE TURNED ME DOWN...WE'D PROBABLY NEVER HAVE A CONVERSATION LIKE THIS AGAIN.
SO MAYBE I SHOULDN'T...
HEY, YAMATO-KUN...
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANNA TELL ME?
N-NO...
WELL, I MEAN...
I—
LEO
THUMP
I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU, ASAHINA...
THUMP
HUH?
SHOCK

YOU ALWAYS TREAT ME LIKE I'M YOUR SLAVE.
YOU COULD AT LEAST BUY ME DINNER OR SOMETHING.
HUH?
.....
OKAY, FINE, BUT YOU'D BETTER AT LEAST CARRY ALL THE SHOPPING BAGS.
HUH?
GOD, YOU'RE SUCH A CHEAPSKATE.
AND YOU NEVER EVEN APOLOGIZED FOR ALL THOSE EXPLODING EGGS YOU MADE ME EAT.
NO WAY!
WHAT? WHY THE HELL SHOULD I HAVE TO BUY YOU DINNER?
MOS BURGER
YOU CAN HANDLE THAT, CAN'T YOU?
IN EXCHANGE FOR DINNER.

THERE'S NO WAY I COULD SAY IT STRAIGHT TO HER FACE.
Y-YEAH.
BUT I DON'T EVEN NEED TO TELL HER. I MEAN, THIS IS PRACTICALLY A DATE.
OH, AND NO FAST FOOD.
YOU'RE SO PICKY.
BUT I GUESS I SHOULDN'T READ TOO MUCH INTO THIS.
COFFEE
GOD, THIS IS SO FRUS-TRATING.
THE MORE I LIKE HER, THE HARDER IT GETS...

CHARACTER PROFILE NO. 2

SUZUKA ASAHINA
(HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN)

DATE OF BIRTH—JUNE 1 (GEMINI)
HEIGHT—5'7"
WEIGHT—?
BLOOD TYPE—B
MEASUREMENTS—32", 23", 33"

LIKES
- TRACK (THE HIGH JUMP)
- HARD WORK
- SHOPPING (FOR AROMATHERAPY ITEMS AND STUFFED ANIMALS)

DISLIKES
- IRRESPONSIBLE PEOPLE
- DARK PLACES, GHOSTS, BUGS
- GREASY FOOD

MOTTO—HARD WORK PAYS OFF.

THANKS, AYANO-SAN. EVERYTHING WAS DELICIOUS.
カチャ CLINK
カチャ CLANK
YOU'RE WELCOME.
OH, YOU CAN JUST LEAVE THE DISHES THERE.
WELL, I'M OFF TO PRACTICE.
HUH...
YOU HAVE PRACTICE ON SATURDAYS? MAN, THE TRACK TEAM SURE IS STRICT.
WELL, WE'VE GOT A MEET COMING UP.
BUT, WE GET TOMORROW OFF, SO I CAN FINALLY RELAX.
HAVE FUN, ASAHINA-SAN!
THANKS. I WILL.
SLAM
...SO, SHE HAS TOMORROW OFF...

#11 The Promise

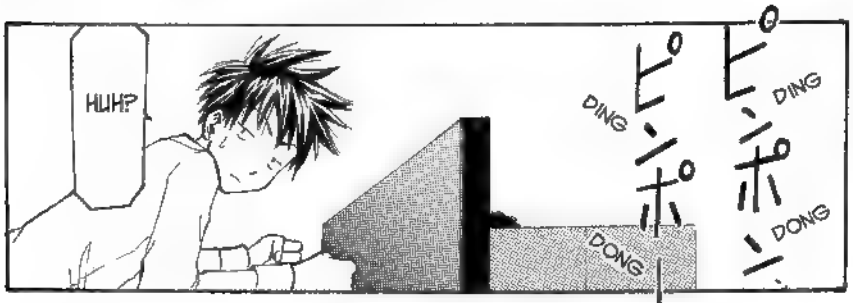
SUZUKA

MAYBE WE CAN GO SOMEWHERE TOGETHER TOMORROW.
IT'S NOT TOO OFTEN THAT SHE GETS SUNDAY OFF...

OR WOULD THAT BE TOO MUCH LIKE A DATE...?
HMMM... MAYBE A MOVIE OR AN AMUSEMENT PARK...

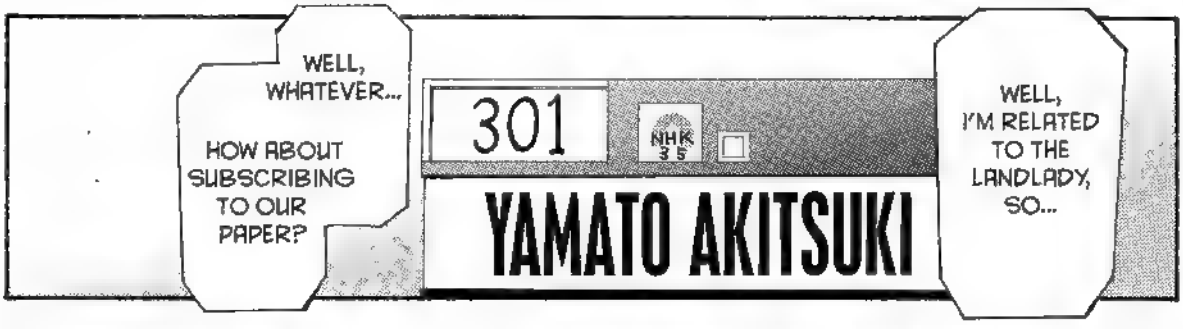
.....

THERE'S NO WAY I COULD EVER TELL HER.../
わさ SHUFFA
わさ SHUFFA
IF I ASK ASAHINA TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT IT'LL BE TOTALLY OBVIOUS THAT I'M IN LOVE WITH HER.


HUH?
ピポ DING
ピポ DING
ピポ DONG

BUT... WE JUST WENT SHOPPING YESTERDAY...
I DON'T THINK SHE'S INTO KARAOKE...
BESIDES, WHO'D WANNA SPEND THEIR DAY OFF DOING KARAOKE?

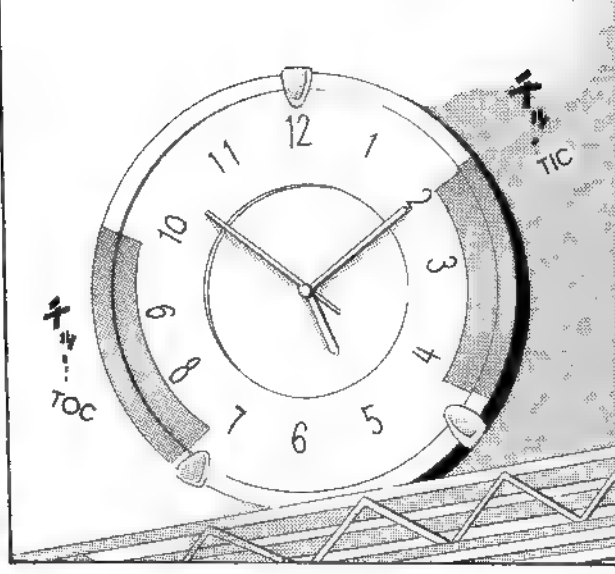
GOOD AFTERNOON! I'M FROM MAIASA MORNING NEWS!
CLICK
DO YOU SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSPAPER?
HUH?
NEWS-PAPER?
UH...
HEY, I THOUGHT ONLY GIRLS LIVED HERE.


WELL, WHATEVER...
HOW ABOUT SUBSCRIBING TO OUR PAPER?
301
NHK 35
YAMATO AKITSUKI
WELL, I'M RELATED TO THE LANDLADY, SO...

CREAK-CREAK
WELL, JUST TRY IT OUT FOR A MONTH.
OKAY?
UH, I-I'M REALLY NOT INTERESTED.
CREAK
STOMP
NO THANKS, I DON'T REALLY READ THE PAPER.
SORRY.

HUH?
FWIP
RIGHT NOW, IF YOU SUBSCRIBE TO BOTH THE MORNING AND THE EVENING EDITIONS, YOU GET TWO FREE TICKETS TO FANTASY LAND.
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
TH-THAT'S IT!
BLINK
SO HOW ABOUT IT?
FLICK
1 DAY PASS
FANTASY LAND
THESE ARE MY LAST TWO TICKETS, AND THEY'RE ONLY GOOD TILL TOMORROW.
THAT'L BE 3,800 YEN*.
SO YOU'D LIKE A ONE-MONTH SUB-SCRIPTION?
*APPROXIMATELY $38
OKAY! I'LL SUBSCRIBE!
WHOOSH
JUST HAND OVER THOSE TICKETS!
HAND 'EM OVER!
HUH?
O-OKAY.
OKAY! SOUNDS GOOD!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH! YOUR SUBSCRIPTION WILL START WITH TONIGHT'S EVENING EDITION.

YOU JUST GAVE ME A POWERFUL, NEW SECRET WEAPON!
THUMP
THUMP
THANK YOU, NEWSPAPER LADY!


TIC
TOC

FANTASYLAND
ファンタジーランド
1 DAY PASS
"IT'D BE A SHAME TO LET THEM GO TO WASTE."
"THESE CAME FREE WITH MY NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION. WANNA COME WITH ME?"

I'VE GOTTA TRY TO ACT NATURAL.
FWUMP
NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS WAIT FOR ASAHINA TO GET HOME.

ALL RIGHT!
THAT SOUNDS NORMAL! Ttotally NORMAL!

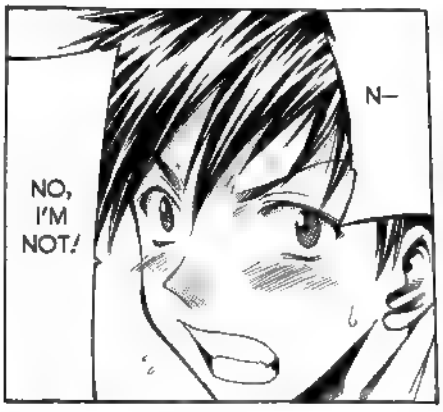
HUH? A-ASAHINA!
YAMATO-KUN?
DING
DONG

?
UH, UH...
Y-YEAH...
AYANO-SAN TOLD ME TO TELL YOU DINNER'S READY.
NO... IT'S NOT THAT...
WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU SICK AGAIN?
AH! WAIT...
STEP
WELL, WHATEVER. JUST COME DOWN.
DAMN IT! EVEN AFTER ALL THAT PRACTICE...
I STILL CAN'T SAY IT.
THUMP
GOD... I'M SO PATHETIC!
SLUMP

WHY DIDN'T I JUST ASK HER?
ASAHIYU BATHS
SHIT, I CAN'T ASK HER AT DINNER. EVERYONE WILL HEAR ME.
CLOP
CLOP
I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO GO TO HER ROOM.
AH, HERE HE COMES!
HUH?
WE'VE BEEN WAITNG FOR YOU, YAMATO-KUN. ♡
YOU CAN'T DRINK OUT HERE, SAOTOME-SAN.
PURR
PURR
GREAT... IT'S THE SHE-DEVIL.
ALL RIGHT! LET'S GET OUR DRINK ON!
YOINK
L-LET GO OF ME, SAOTOME-SAN!
HEY, STAY OUT OF MY ROOM!

AHH!
HUH? WHAT'RE THESE?
FULL DAY PASSES TO FANTASY LAND?
FANTASYLAND
1 DAY PASS

HEY!
SWIPE
GIVE ME THOSE!


N—
NO, I'M NOT!

HUH?
OH REALLY?
THEN WANNA GO WITH ME?

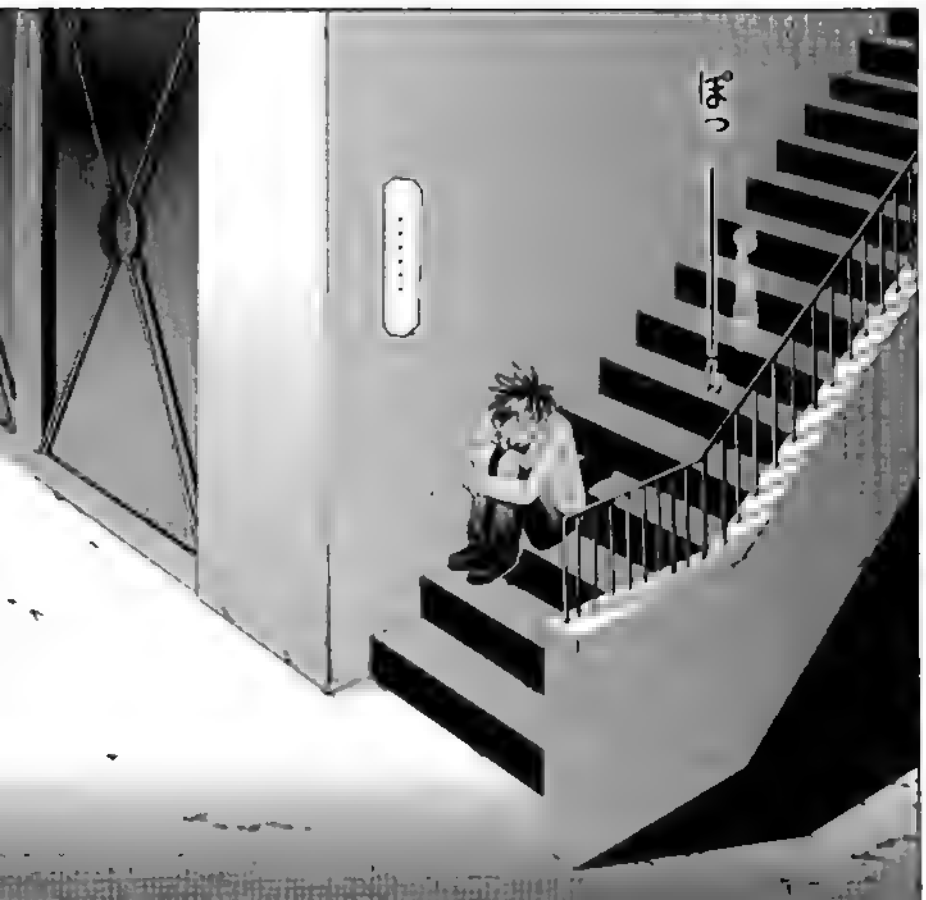
TWO TICKETS, HUH?
GUESS YOU'RE PLANNING ON INVITING SUZUKA-CHAN.

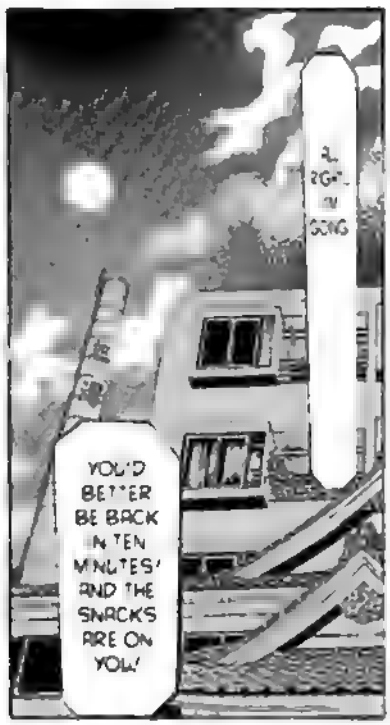
I JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE THE DAY OFF TOMORROW.
SMOOCH
I WOULDN'T MIND KEEPING YOU COMPANY.
WHY THE HELL WOULD I WANNA HANG OUT WITH YOU? GIVE 'EM BACK!
SWIPE
MEGUMI-CHAN! HERE!
AH!
SWIPE
GVIE 'EM BACK, YOU BITCH!
FANTASYLAND
1 DAY PASS
CRASH
KYAA!!
OUCH.
SHIT.
FLAP
FLAP
GOD, TAKE IT EASY. SOMEONE COULD GET HURT.

GI– GIVE 'DEM... <SNIFFLE>... BACK... PWEASE...
THOSE TICKETS ARE MY ONLY CHANCE!
G-GOD... WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
YOU'RE SO GROSS.
LET'S JUST GIVE THEM BACK, SAOTOME-SAN.
I THINK THEY'RE REALLY IMPORTANT TO HIM.
OUCH! THAT HURTS, YAMATO-KUN!
SQUEEZE
.....
HMM...
FLIPPA
FLIPPA
FWIP
FWIP
STARE
.....

WAH!
SLICE
BOING
BOING
!
SWIPE
!
!
AWW... HE'S LIKE A NATURAL PAPER SHREDDER.
MEOW!
.....
TH—
CRACK
CRACK
THERE GOES MY ONLY CHANCE!

WH-WHAT? THAT WASN'T MY FAULT.
YOU'D BETTER PAY FOR THOSE!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, GORO-CHAN?
MOW
YOU IDIOT!
WHY DON'T YOU GO BUY US SOME SNACKS TO GO WITH THE SAKE? AFTER A COUPLE OF DRINKS, YOU'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT IT.
I CALL THIS ONE "YAMATO-KUN SQUEEZES SOME HOT COLLEGE CO-ED TIT."
I CAUGHT SOME REALLY GREAT FOOTAGE OF YOU ON MY CELL, YAMATO-KUN!


ぽっ
……


YOU'D BETTER BE BACK IN TEN MINUTES! AND THE SNACKS ARE ON YOU!

I SHOULD'VE ASKED HER WHEN SHE CAME TO MY ROOM.
EVEN IF I WANTED TO GET NEW TICKETS, IT'D BE TOO LATE NOW ANYWAY.
SHIT... NOW IT'S HOPELESS.
THERE GOES MY ONLY WEAPON.

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GET THROUGH WHEN YOU'RE BLOCKING THE STAIRS?

.....

STEP
HEY, I WANNA GO TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE.
HUH?

IT'S TOO LATE NOW.
ASAHINA...

UH... YEAH.
THE SALES LADY WOULDN'T GO AWAY, SO I BOUGHT A MONTH'S SUBSCRIPT ON.

HEY, YAMATO-KUN...
I SAW A NEWSPAPER BY YOUR DOOR. DID YOU SUBSCRIBE?

SHE CAME TO MY ROOM TOO, BUT I DIDN'T BUY ANYTHING.
SHE DID GIVE ME TWOTICKETS TO FANTASY LAND THOUGH.

THAT B TCH!
SHE SAID SHE ONLY HAD TWO LEFT.

YEAH, SHE JUST LET ME HAVE THEM.
WHAT?
SHE DID?

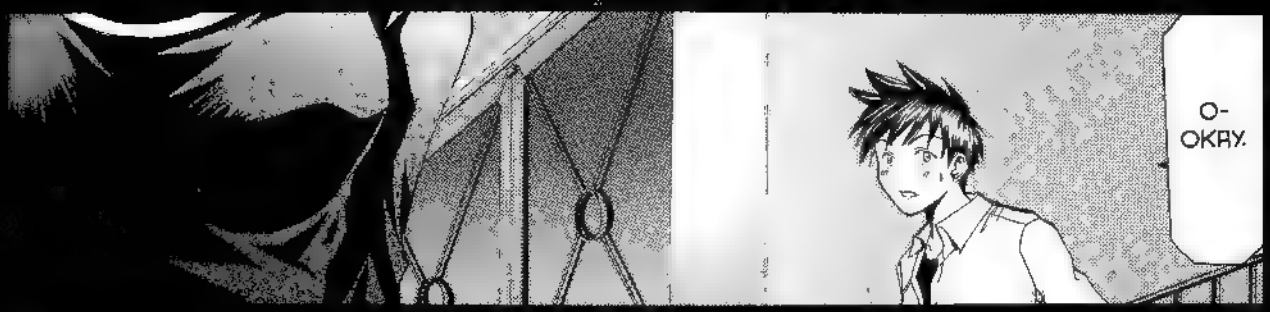
EH?
THEY DIDN'T COST ME ANYTHING, BUT...
IT'D KIND OF BE A WASTE NOT TO USE THEM.
WHAT'S WRONG?
UH... NOTHING.

I'LL JUST SAY..."WANNA GO WITH ME?"...ALMOST LIKE I'M JOKING AROUND.
THUMP
NOW'S MY CHANCE... I JUST HAVE TO ACT NATURAL...
JUST ACT NATURAL...
THUMP
UM...
SAY IT! JUST SAY IT!
THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE.
THUMP

WELL, I GUESS I COULD LET YOU TAKE ME.
HEH
OH MY GOD! I SOUND LIKE A STUCK UP ASSHOLE!
HUH?
DOINK
GOD, YOU'RE SUCH A CHILD...
HUH?
W...WAIT, I MEAN...
SORRY, I...
OH NO! I PISSED HER OFF AGAIN!
CLOP
CLOP
IF YOU WANNA COME WITH ME, WHY DON'T YOU JUST TRY ASKING NICELY?

HUH?
WHAT? NOW YOU DON'T WANNA GO?
HUH?
NO, I...
I MEAN, IF YOU REALLY WANNA GO, THEN I'LL COME WITH YOU!
OKAY, THEN.
...I GUESS...
...I COULD *LET YOU* TAG ALONG.

TOMORROW! EIGHT A.M.!
DON'T OVERSLEEP!

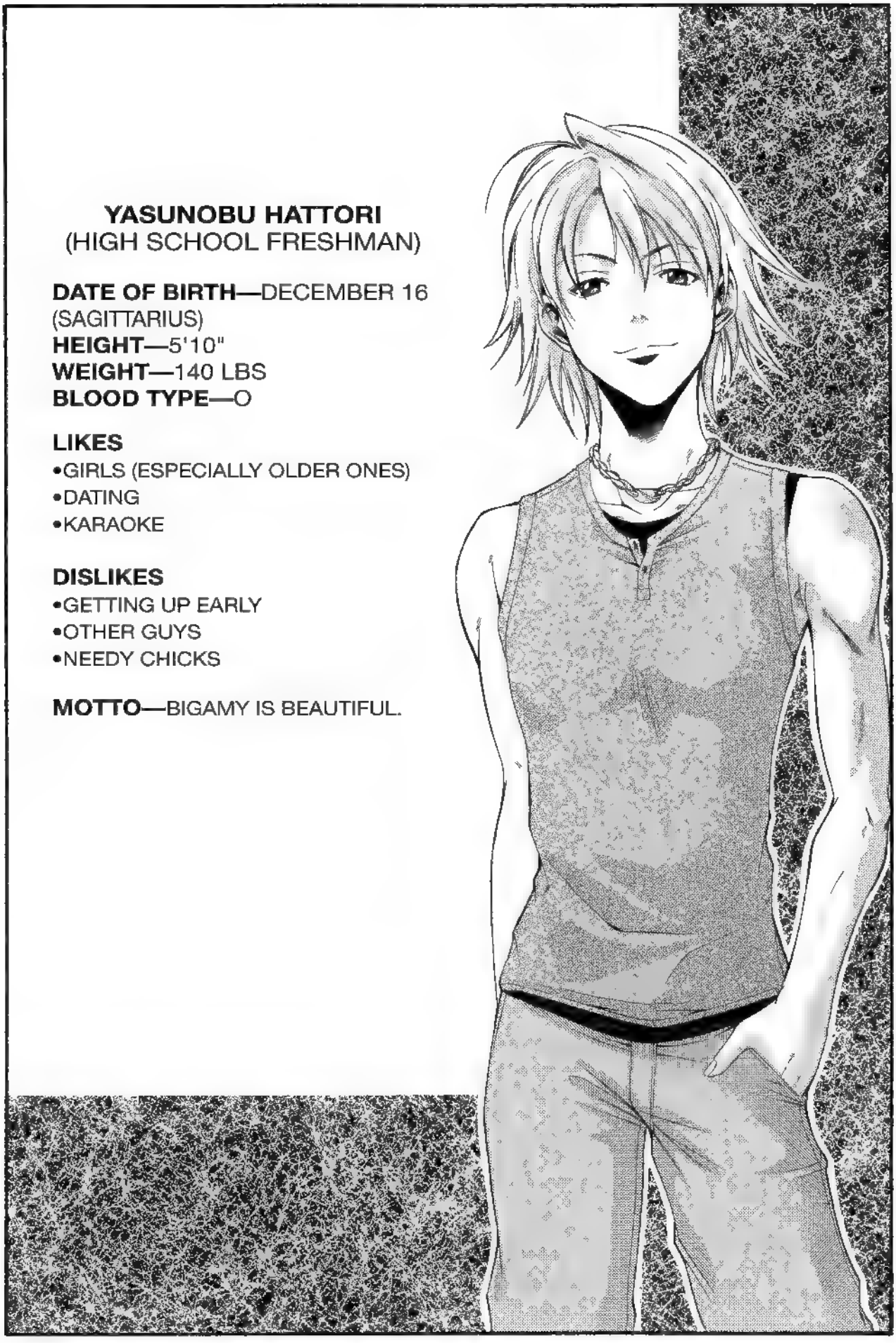

O-OKAY.

ALL RIGHT!
GRIP

MEN ARE ALL THE SAME.
HMMPH
HIC
WELL, IT'S BEEN TEN MINUTES.
HE'S DEAD MEAT.

I DID IT...
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
I DID IT!

CHARACTER PROFILE NO. 3



YASUNOBU HATTORI
(HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN)

DATE OF BIRTH—DECEMBER 16 (SAGITTARIUS)
HEIGHT—5'10"
WEIGHT—140 LBS
BLOOD TYPE—O

LIKES
- GIRLS (ESPECIALLY OLDER ONES)
- DATING
- KARAOKE

DISLIKES
- GETTING UP EARLY
- OTHER GUYS
- NEEDY CHICKS

MOTTO—BIGAMY IS BEAUTIFUL.

YAMATO AND SUZUKA-CHAN.
YAMATO WAS ACTING ALL SNEAKY LIKE HE DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO FIND OUT WHAT HE WAS UP TO.
BUT TOTALLY SAW HIM
I SAW THOSE TWO LEAVE TOGETHER EARLY THIS MORNING.
CLOP
HUH?
CLOP
DO YOU THINK THEY WENT TO FANTASY LAND?
MAYBE HE GOT SOME NEW TICKETS.
TEE HEE
CLOP
PROBABLY.
CLOP
THEY DID?
WHERE THE HECK WOULD THEY GO ON A DAY LIKE THIS?
HEY, MOM! WHERE'S YAMATO AND SUZUKA-CHAN?
THEY STEPPED OUT TOGETHER A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
THAT KID...
...IS SO UNLUCKY.

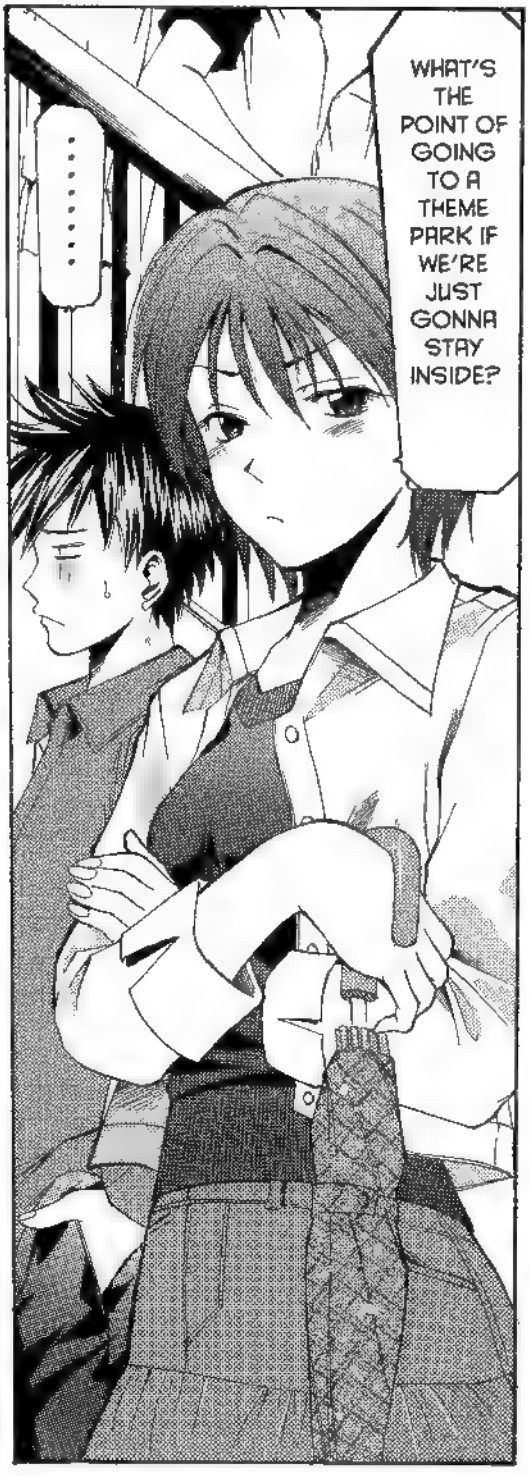
SUZUKA
#12 The Confession

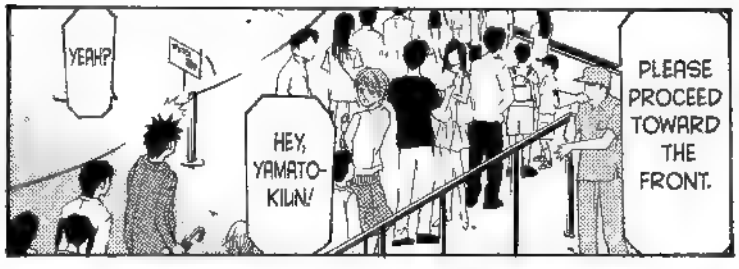
I FINALLY GET ASAHINA TO GO TO THE THEME PARK WITH ME, AND...
IT ENDS UP POURING DOWN RAIN.
THIS SUCKS!
I JUST BOUGHT THESE SHOES, AND NOW THEY'RE SOAKED.
WE WON'T EVEN GET TO SEE THE PARADE.
YOU SAID THE WEATHER WAS SUPPOSED TO BE NICE TODAY, AND I WAS DUMB ENOUGH TO BELIEVE YOU.
W-WELL, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE.
YOU THOUGHT? DID YOU EVEN BOTHER TO CHECK THE WEATHER REPORT?
I-IT'LL STILL BE FUN.
MAYBE THEY'LL HAVE SOME INDOOR ATTRACTIONS.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN MAYBE? DON'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T EVEN DO ANY RESEARCH!
WELL...I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO...
YEAH WELL, I DIDN'T! IT'S NOT LIKE I KNEW IT WAS GONNA RAIN!
BESIDES, THAT'S THE GUY'S JOB. DON'T YOU KNOW ANYTHINGP
カチ!
SNAP
OH, SO THIS IS ALL MY FAULT!? WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ASKED ME TO GO WITH YOU! GOD, YOU'RE SO CLUELESS!
AH.
EXCUSE ME, SIR. PLEASE DON'T FIGHT IN FRONT OF THE ENTRANCE.
.....
.....

FLYING DOLPHIN

MAN, THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE FUN, BUT...
IT'S TURNING INTO A TOTAL CATAS-TROPHE.

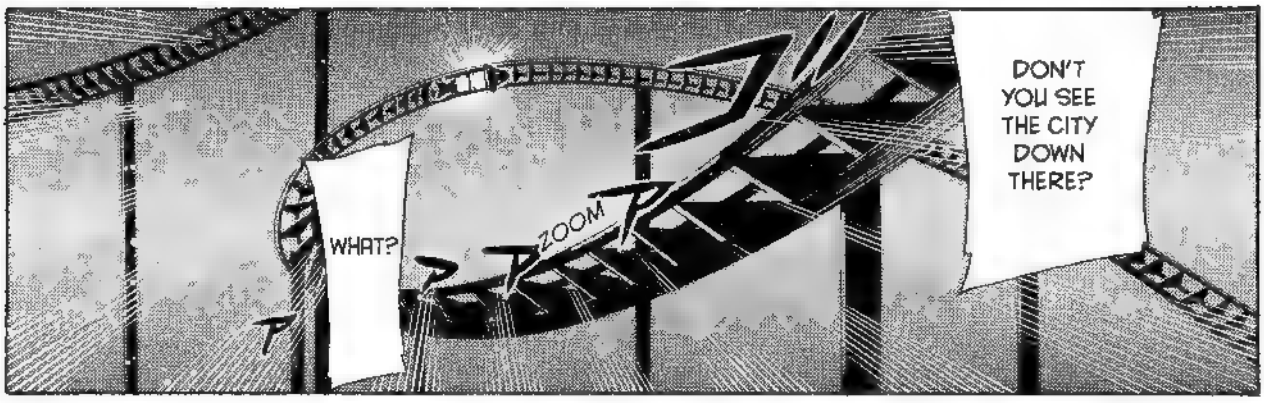

WHAT'S THE POINT OF GOING TO A THEME PARK IF WE'RE JUST GONNA STAY INSIDE?
.....


PLEASE PROCEED TOWARD THE FRONT.
HEY, YAMATO-KUN!
YEAH?

I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
AFTER WE RIDE THIS ONE, I'M GOING HOME!

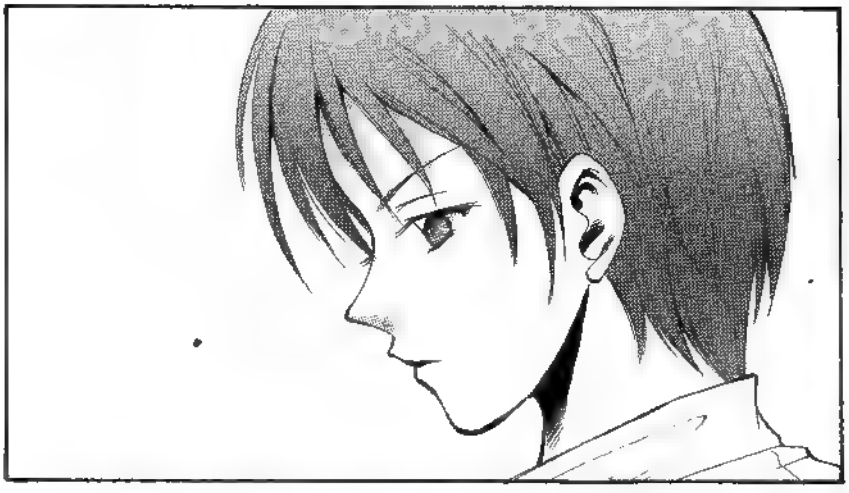
SIGH.
WHY'D WE EVEN BOTHER COMING?

I GUESS THERE AREN'T ANY FUN INDOOR RIDES
ガタン
ガタン
ガタン
HUH?
WAIT! WHAT KIND OF RIDE IS THIS?
WHOOAA...
HUH?
WOW! LOOK AT THE CITY DOWN BELOW


DON'T YOU SEE THE CITY DOWN THERE?
WHAT?
ZOOM

GLANCE
WELL, I HAD A PRETTY GOOD TIME ON THAT ONE, BUT...

GUESS I UNDER-ESTIMATED THE INDOOR ATTRACTIONS.
THOSE COMPUTER GRAPHICS WERE AMAZING.



HUH?
HA
HEH.
HA

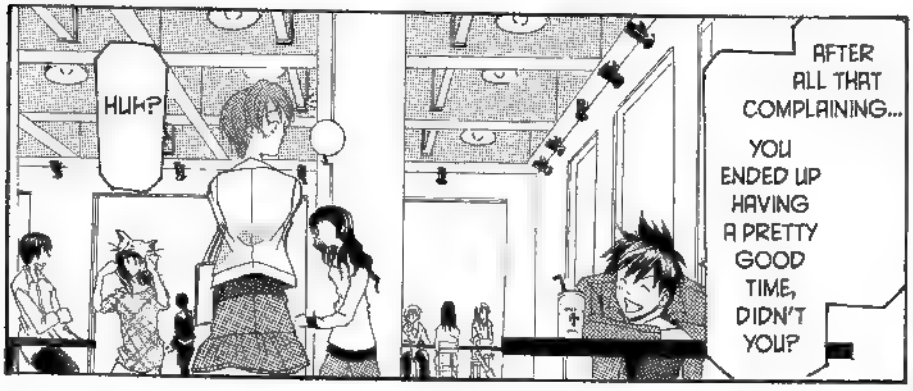
WAH...
SHE'S STILL MAD.
YEP, SHE'S DEFINITELY READY TO GO HOME.

I COULDN'T HELP IT. I WAS TOTALLY SCARED.
OH MY GOD! LOOK AT YOUR FACE, YAMATO-KUN!
クスクス
Fantasy Land
CHECK THIS OUT!
I DIDN'T KNOW WE WERE GONNA HAVE OUR PICTURE TAKEN.
SHIT...
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO GO HOME.
HUH?
O-OKAY.
HURRY UP! WE'RE WASTING TIME!
YOU REALLY THINK WE CAN RIDE THEM ALL?
W-WELL, LET'S R DE ALL THE NDOOR ATTRACTIONS!
ALL RIGHT! SHE'S NOT PISSED OFF ANYMORE!
WELL...
WHICH ONE SHOULD WE GO ON NEXT?

ザァァァ
TSSS
CHEER'S CAFE
......
ぐったり
EXHAUSTED
WELL, WE SPENT THE WHOLE DAY HERE, BUT WE ONLY MANAGED TO GO ON HALF THE RIDES.
Y-YOU'RE NOT EASY TO KEEP UP WITH.
I HAD NO IDEA THIS PLACE WAS SO HUGE.
I FEEL LIKE I WALKED A THOUSAND MILES.
GOD, YOU'RE SO PATHETIC! YOU'RE JUST OUT OF SHAPE.
GRAMPS.
QUIT CALLING ME GRAMPS.

W-WAIT. CAN'T WE RELAX FOR A FEW MORE MINUTES?
CLINK
I DOUBT THEY'LL HAVE THE PARADE WHEN IT'S POURING LIKE THIS.
OH WELL... LET'S JUST DO SOME SHOPPING, AND HEAD HOME.

I WANNA SEE EVERYTHING, SO EVERY MINUTE COUNTS.
NO!


HUH?
AFTER ALL THAT COMPLAINING...
YOU ENDED UP HAVING A PRETTY GOOD TIME, DIDN'T YOU?

OKAY, THEN.
OH YEAH, I FORGOT. ASAHINA CAN SPEND HOURS JUST SHOPPING...

IS THAT BAD?
.....

NO...
OF COURSE NOT.
.....

NO WAY! THOSE ARE GROSS.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GET THESE?
I END UP LUGGING AROUND ALL THE SHOPPING BAGS...
SHE DRAGS ME FROM STORE TO STORE, AND...

WHEN-EVER...
OKAY, OKAY.
COME ON, LET'S GO. HURRY UP!
...WE GO OUT TOGETHER, I'M ALWAYS STRUGGLING TO KEEP UP WITH HER.

...ANY OTHER DAY WITH ASAHINA.
ISN'T T CUTE?
THIS CAT LOOKS JUST LIKE GORO-CHAN.
IT REALLY WASN'T MUCH DIFFERENT FROM...

AH...
I GUESS IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER WHERE WE GO...

UH... OKAY.
THUMP
THUMP
WAH
WHOA!
WE'RE STILL HOLDING HANDS
BONG
BONG
THUPPA
THUPPA

IT'S SO PRETTY.
THE MORE TIME I SPEND WITH HER... THE MORE I LIKE HER.
.....
YEAH.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY...
IF SHE TURNED ME DOWN, IT'D MEAN WE'D NEVER SHARE A MOMENT LIKE THIS AGAIN.
...I CAN'T TELL HER HOW I FEEL.
AND I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN!
SQUEEZE
AH...

ニコッ
GRIN
I HOPE... THIS NIGHT NEVER ENDS.
ドキ
THUMP
ン…
THUMP

I...

...LOVE YOU, ASAHINA...

WH—
WHAT?
G-GEEZ, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
DID YOU REALLY THINK I'D FALL FOR A JOKE LIKE THAT?
HUH?
GIVE ME A BREAK!
NO... I...
DAMN IT! WHAT AM I SAYING?
GOTTA DO SOMETHING...
THUMP
THUMP

AND WE CAN STILL HANG OUT LIKE THIS.
IF I KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT, I CAN JUST PLAY IT OFF AS A JOKE!
SQUINCH
I'M NOT KIDDING!
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU!
SINCE...
...THE VERY FIRST TIME I SAW YOU.

CHARACTER PROFILE NO. 4

HONOKA SAKURAI
(HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN)

DATE OF BIRTH—SEPTEMBER 16 (VIRGO)
HEIGHT—5'5"
WEIGHT—?
BLOOD TYPE—A
MEASUREMENTS—32", 22", 33"

LIKES
- AKITSUKI-KUN
- THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA'S UDON
- BATHS

DISLIKES
- PLAYERS
- EXERCISE
- SQUISHY FOODS

IMAGE FLOWER—THE PANSY (REMEMBER ME...)

I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU!
SINCE THE VERY FIRST TIME I SAW YOU.

SUZUKA

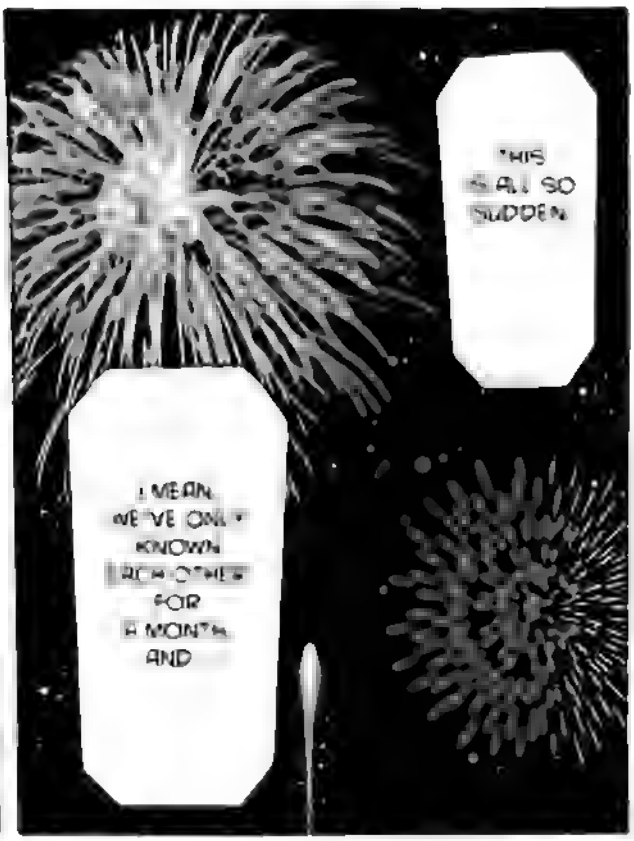
#13
Heartbreak

W-WILL...
...YOU BE MY GIRLFRIEND?

TH-
ドクン
ドクン
ドクン

—
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE

.....


THIS IS ALL SO SUDDEN
I MEAN WE'VE ONLY KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A MONTH AND

WOO
WOO
ARE YOU REALLY...
SERIOUS ABOUT THIS?
.....
SQUEEZE
ギュッ

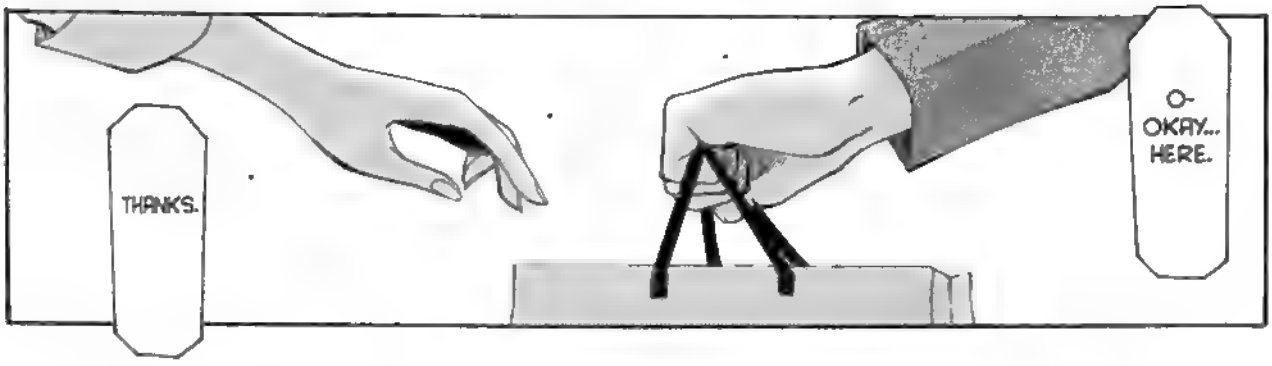
.....!
DONG
BADDA
SLOW DOWN!
LOOK, MOMMY! A KITTY!
HEY! STOP RUNNING!

.....
...I'M SORRY.

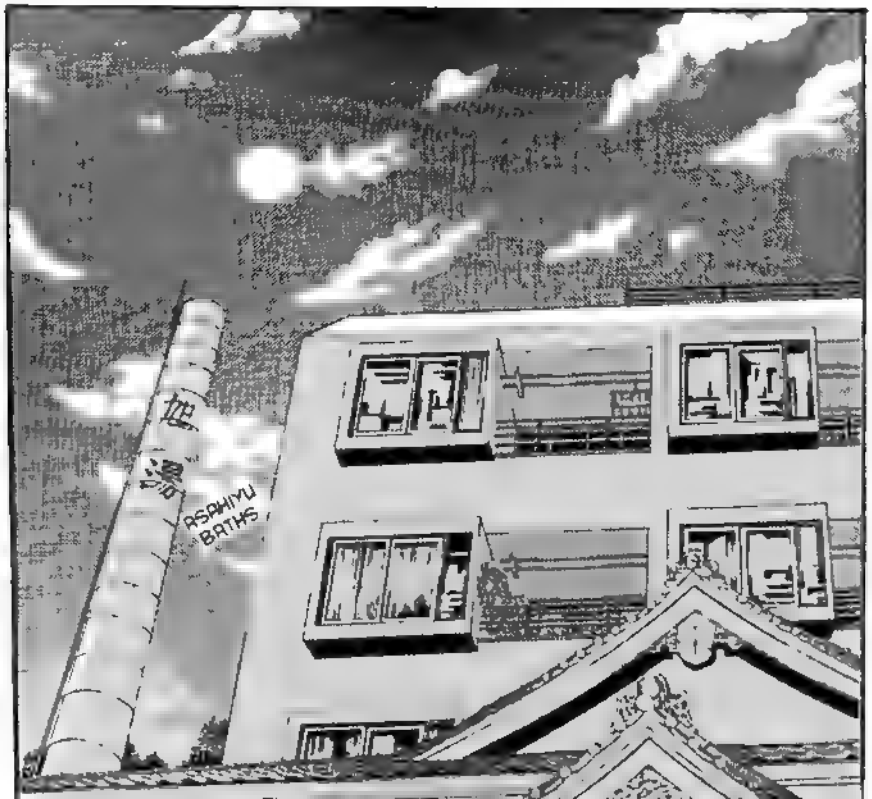
IT'S NOT THAT HEAVY.
TH-THAT'S OKAY.

I'LL... CARRY THE BAG...
HUH?

YEAH, BUT...
...YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO CARRY IT

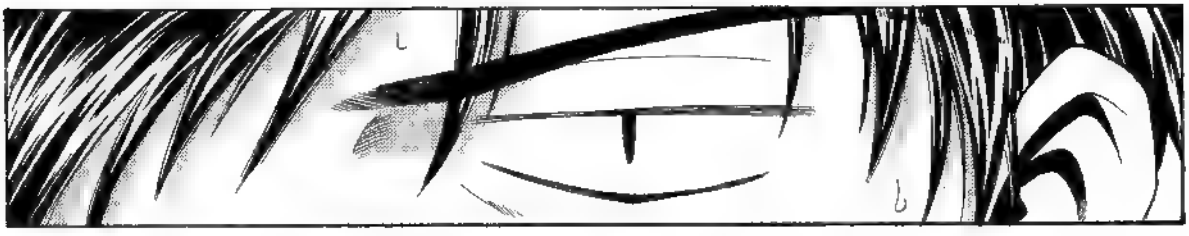

O-OKAY... HERE.
THANKS.

STEP
STEP

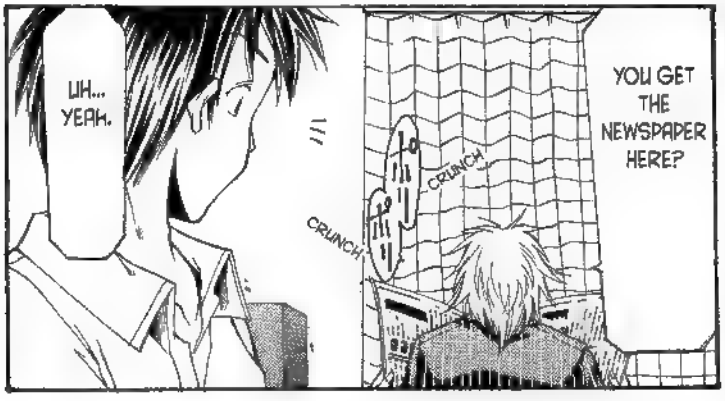

ASAHIYU BATHS

……
コツ
コツ
……
カン
カン
カン
STED
Y-YEAH
SLAM
SEE YA
CHICK
……
BEAK
WELL.. SEE YA

'SUP.
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
I HELPED MYSELF TO YOUR CHIPS.



YEAH.
WAS THE DOOR UNLOCKED?

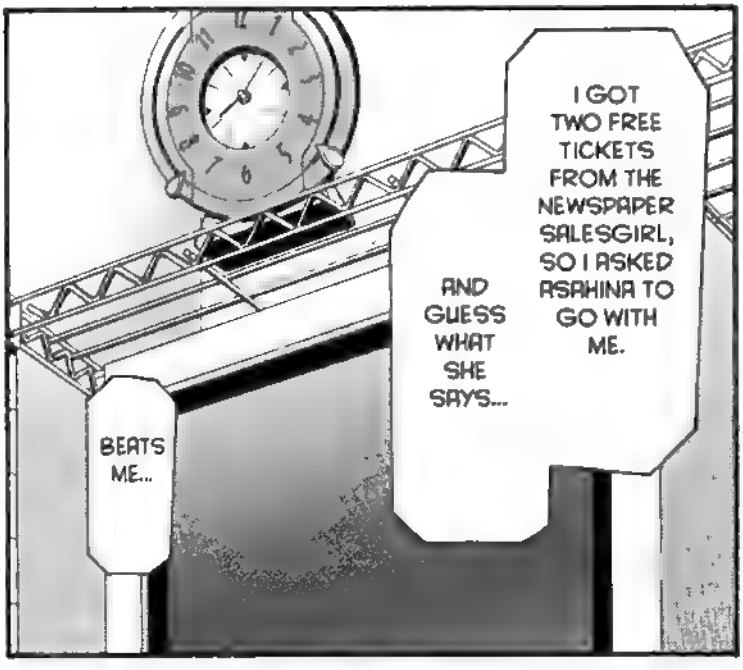

UH... YEAH.
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
YOU GET THE NEWSPAPER HERE?

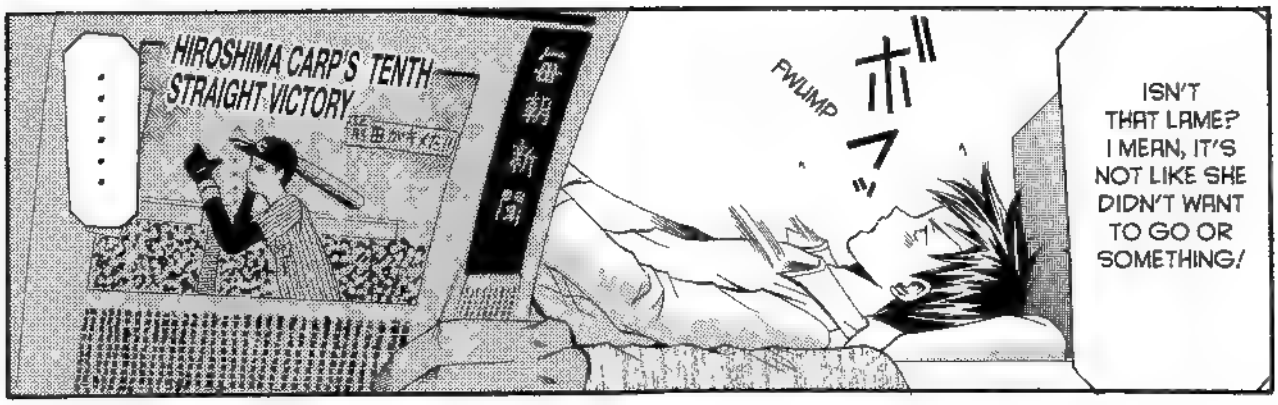
SHUT UP.
FWUPPA
LOW SALT
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
WHAT A WASTE OF MONEY. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'LL EVER READ ANYTHING BUT THE SPORTS PAGE AND THE... ...TV LISTINGS.
THAT'S YESTER-DAY'S PAPER.
WHOA! THE CARP WON THEIR TENTH GAME IN A ROW.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY WON AGAIN.
THESE GUYS WON THE OPEN.
HMMM.
THE BRITISH OPEN
OH.
FLIP
.....

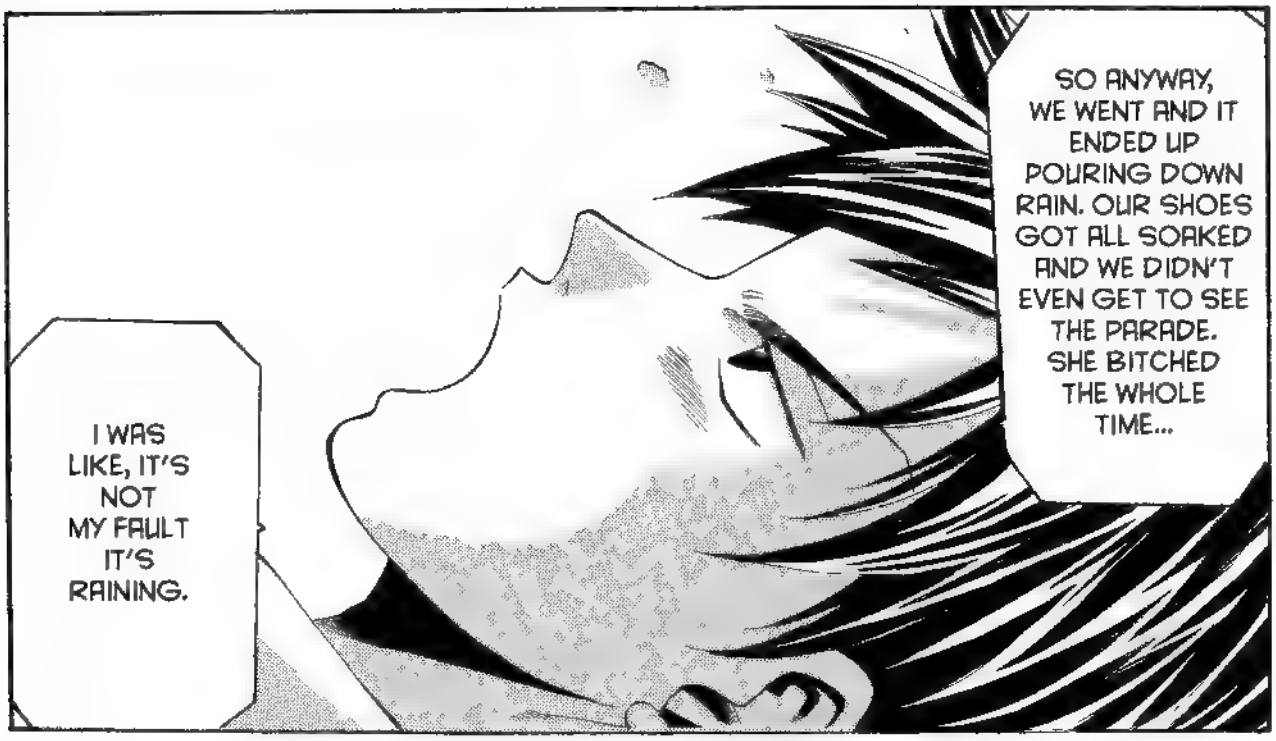
I WENT TO A THEME PARK WITH ASAHINA TODAY.

YEAH...
.....

SHE GOES... "I GUESS I COULD *LET YOU* TAKE ME."

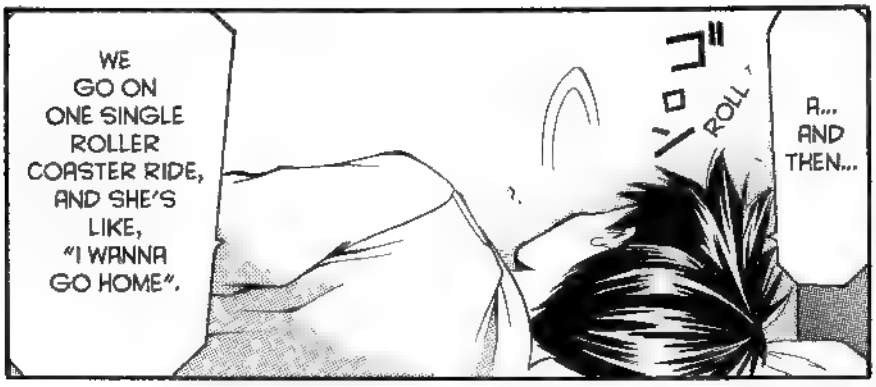

I GOT TWO FREE TICKETS FROM THE NEWSPAPER SALESGIRL, SO I ASKED ASAHINA TO GO WITH ME.
AND GUESS WHAT SHE SAYS...
BEATS ME...

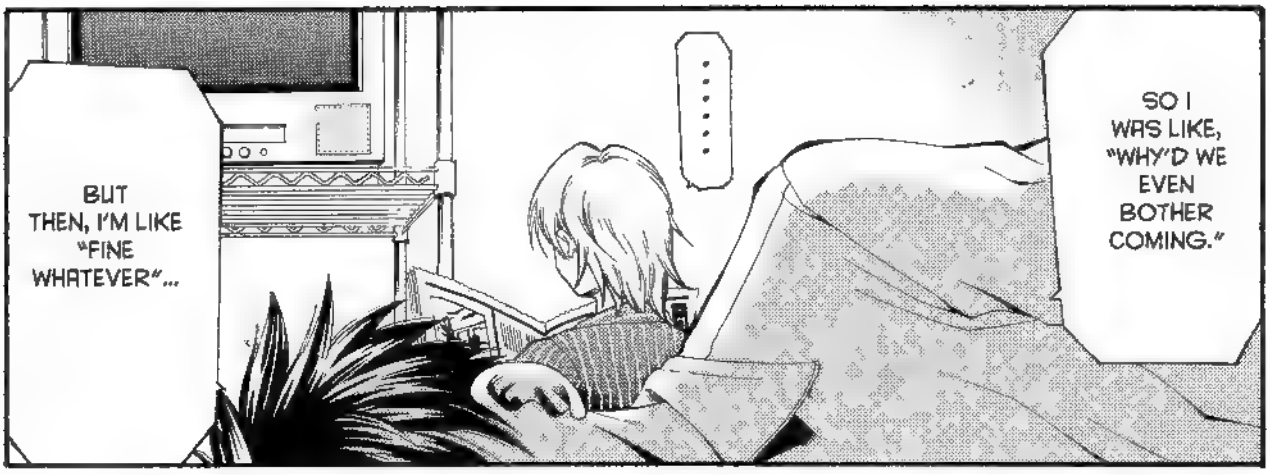

HIROSHIMA CARP'S TENTH STRAIGHT VICTORY
毎朝新聞
前田がキメた!!
FWUMP
ボフッ
ISN'T THAT LAME? I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE SHE DIDN'T WANT TO GO OR SOMETHING!


SO ANYWAY, WE WENT AND IT ENDED UP POURING DOWN RAIN. OUR SHOES GOT ALL SOAKED AND WE DIDN'T EVEN GET TO SEE THE PARADE. SHE BITCHED THE WHOLE TIME...
I WAS LIKE, IT'S NOT MY FAULT IT'S RAINING.

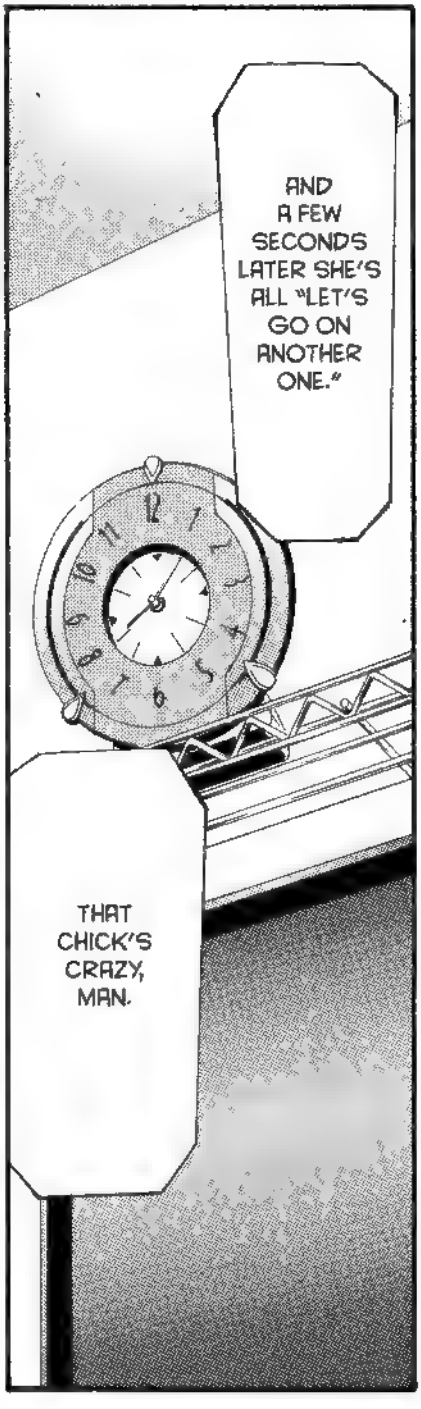
.....

UH-HUH...
HIMA CARP'S TENTH
HT VICTORY
前田がキメた!!
毎朝新聞


WE GO ON ONE SINGLE ROLLER COASTER RIDE, AND SHE'S LIKE, "I WANNA GO HOME".
ROLL
A... AND THEN...


BUT THEN, I'M LIKE "FINE WHATEVER"...
.....
SO I WAS LIKE, "WHY'D WE EVEN BOTHER COMING."

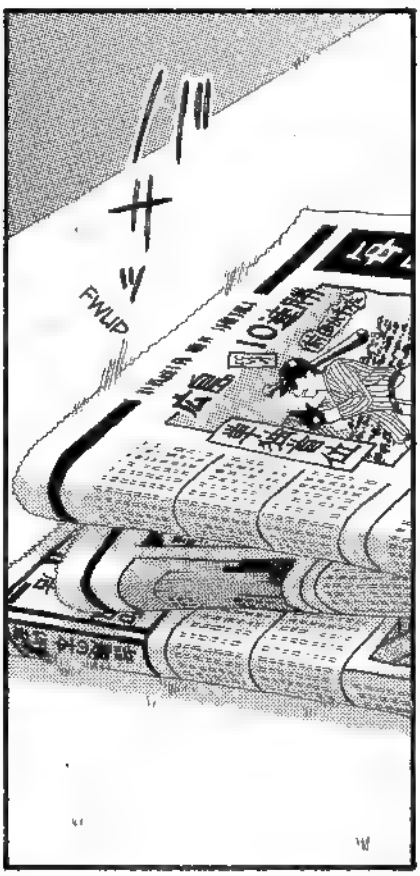
広島10連勝
毎
FLIP


AND A FEW SECONDS LATER SHE'S ALL "LET'S GO ON ANOTHER ONE."
THAT CHICK'S CRAZY, MAN.

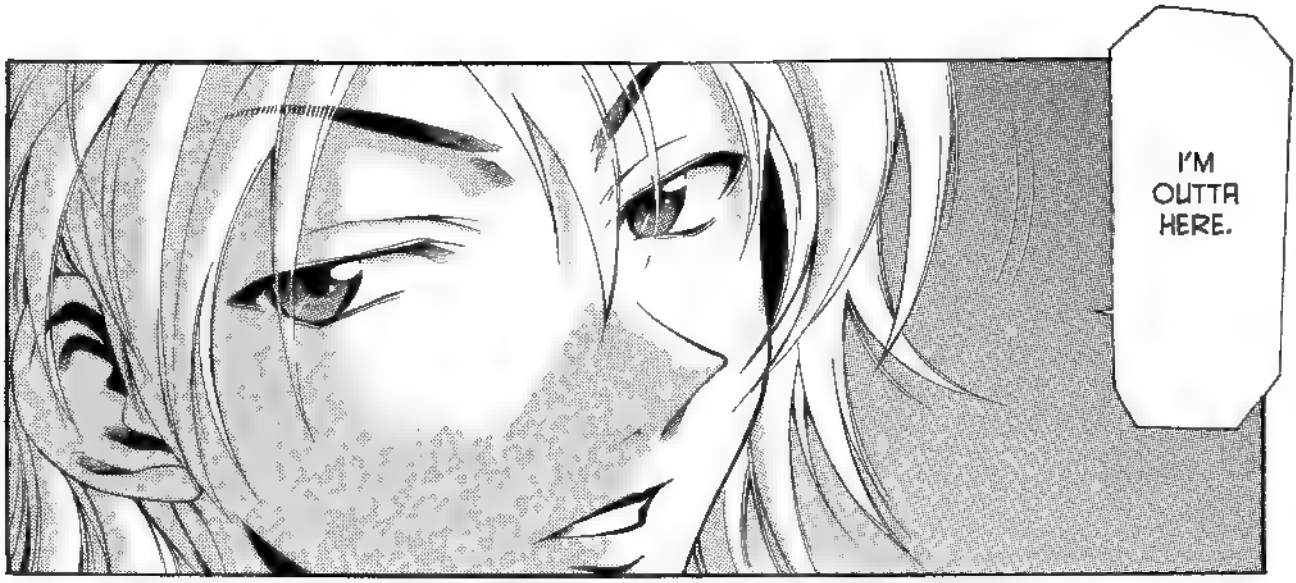
SO THEN SHE DRAGS ME AROUND ALL OVER THE PLACE AND MAKES ME CARRY ALL HER BAGS AND STUFF.
THEN IT CLEARS UP, AND SHE'S LIKE "NOW WE CAN WATCH THE PARADE."

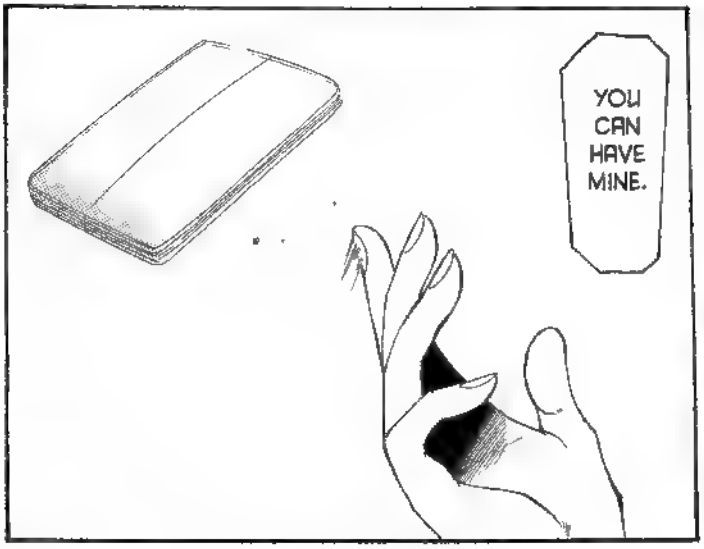
YEAH, RIGHT... WHAT'S SO COOL ABOUT SOME LAME-ASS PARADE?
IT'S JUST A STUPID WASTE OF ELECTRICITY.

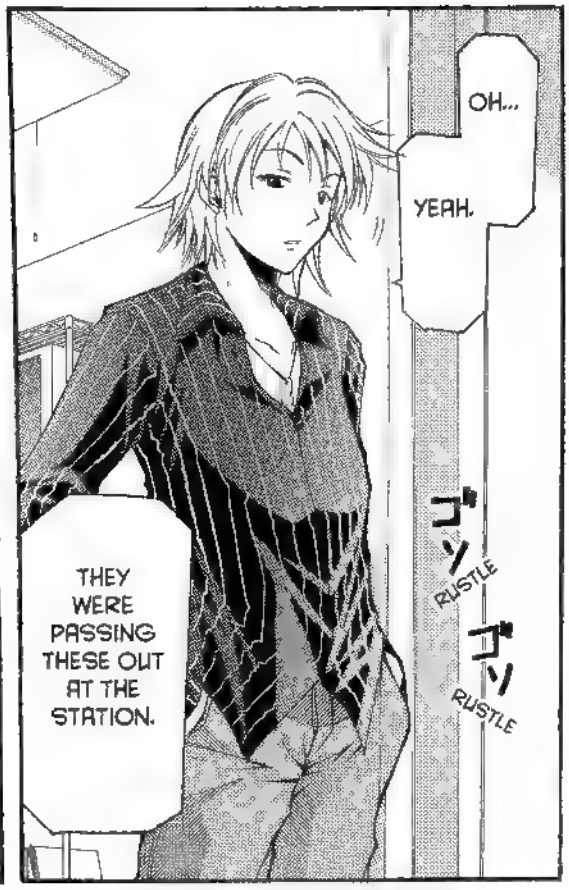
BUT SHE'S ALL... "IT'S SO PRETTY."
.....


FWUP

CREAK
WELL...


I'M OUTTA HERE.


YOU CAN HAVE MINE.


OH...
YEAH.
THEY WERE PASSING THESE OUT AT THE STATION.
ゴソ RUSTLE
ゴソ RUSTLE

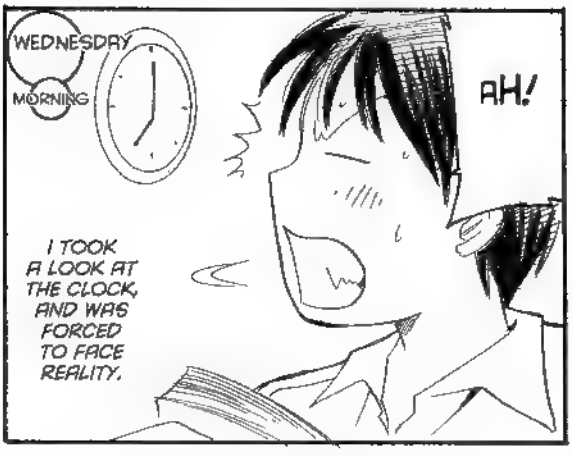
コトン BONK

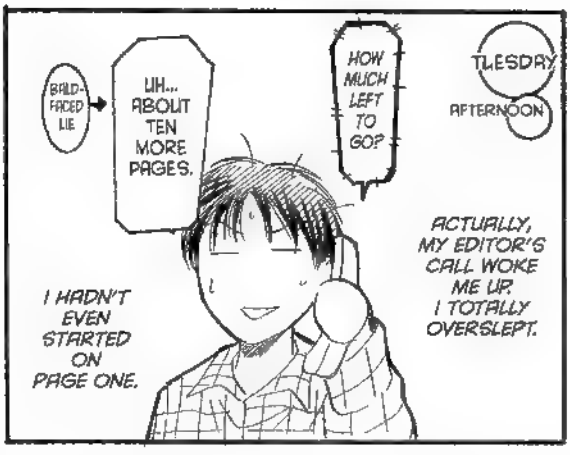
SLAM
ギィ
CREAK
LATER.
DON'T FORGET TO LOCK THE DOOR.
コ
STEP
コ
STEP
コ
STEP
TCH...
WHAT DO I NEED WITH YOUR STUPID TISSUES?
SCHNIK
TRY AIBURU!
GIVE US A CALL. WOOF.
03-3XXX-00XX
042-5XX-52XX

I DON'T NEED 'EM, YOU IDIOT!
DRIP
DRIP
SNIFF
くしゅっ

LET LISTEN TO ME
I CAN'T STOP
SHIT..
SHIT...
WHY THE HELL. AM I CRYING?
I'M SO PATHETIC.
CONTINUED IN VOLUME 3

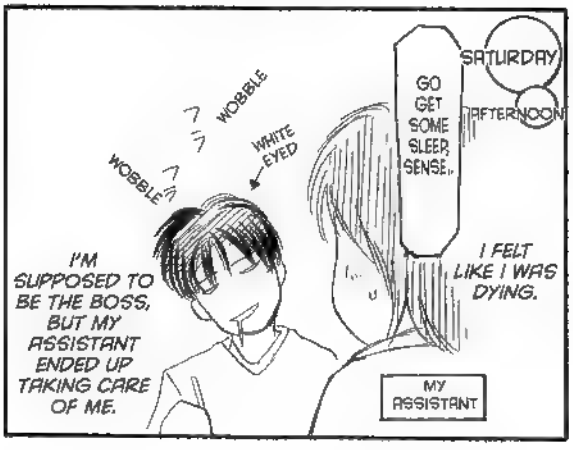
BONUS MANGA—A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF KOUJI SEO

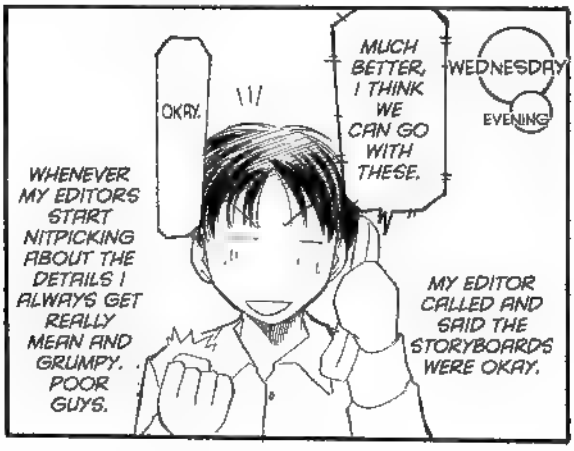


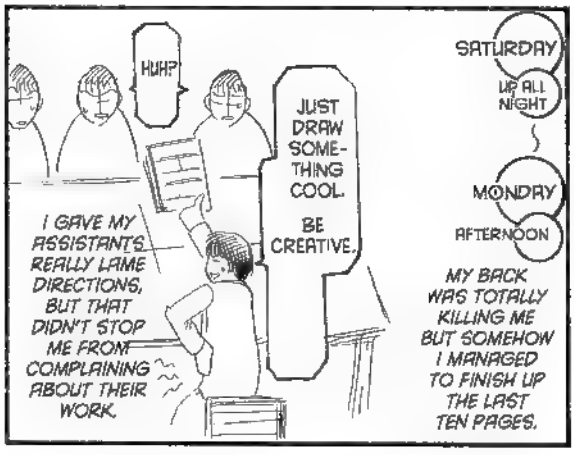


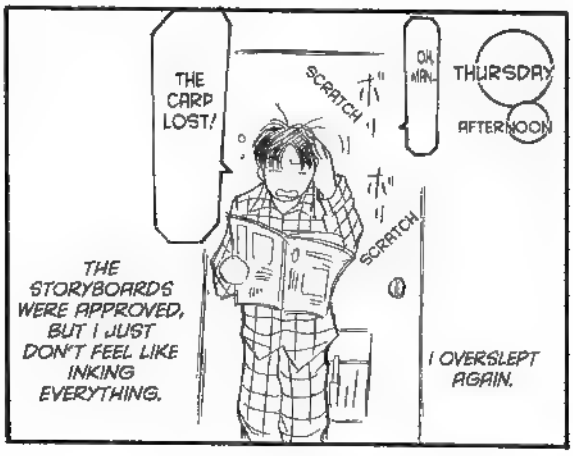
WAHHH!
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
FRIDAY
NOON
OR
SATURDAY
AFTERNOON
I MANAGED TO INK ABOUT NINE PAGES BEFORE I MET UP WITH MY ASSISTANT.
I STAYED UP ALL NIGHT.
I WAS FEELING PRETTY GOOD

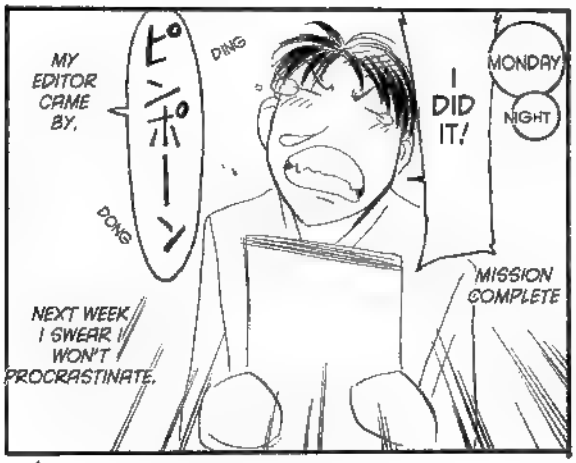
WHY DO I ALWAYS WAIT TILL THE LAST MINUTE.
WOBBLE
YAWN...
WEDNESDAY
AFTERNOON
WOBBLE
THUMP
SOMEHOW, I MANAGED TO FINISH IT ALL AND I FAXED IT IN AGAIN.

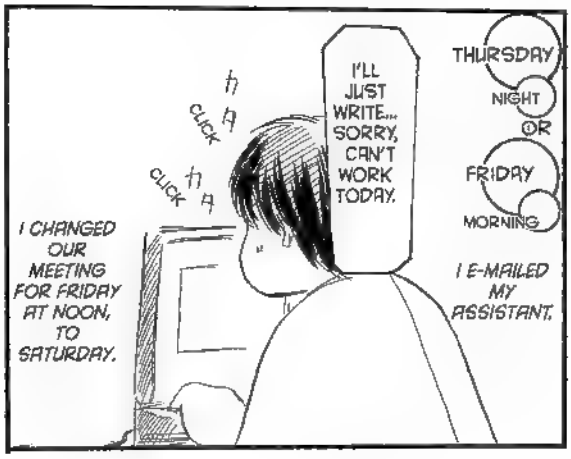

WOBBLE
WOBBLE
WHITE EYED
GO GET SOME SLEEP, SENSE.
SATURDAY
AFTERNOON
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE BOSS, BUT MY ASSISTANT ENDED UP TAKING CARE OF ME.
I FELT LIKE I WAS DYING.
MY ASSISTANT


OKAY.
MUCH BETTER, I THINK WE CAN GO WITH THESE.
WEDNESDAY
EVENING
WHENEVER MY EDITORS START NITPICKING ABOUT THE DETAILS I ALWAYS GET REALLY MEAN AND GRUMPY. POOR GUYS.
MY EDITOR CALLED AND SAID THE STORYBOARDS WERE OKAY.


HUH?
JUST DRAW SOME-THING COOL.
BE CREATIVE.
SATURDAY
UP ALL NIGHT
MONDAY
AFTERNOON
I GAVE MY ASSISTANT'S REALLY LAME DIRECTIONS, BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP ME FROM COMPLAINING ABOUT THEIR WORK.
MY BACK WAS TOTALLY KILLING ME BUT SOMEHOW I MANAGED TO FINISH UP THE LAST TEN PAGES.


THE CARP LOST!
OH, MAN.
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
THURSDAY
AFTERNOON
THE STORYBOARDS WERE APPROVED, BUT I JUST DON'T FEEL LIKE INKING EVERYTHING.
I OVERSLEPT AGAIN.


MY EDITOR CAME BY.
ピンポーン
DING
DONG
I DID IT!
MONDAY
NIGHT
MISSION COMPLETE
NEXT WEEK I SWEAR I WON'T PROCRASTINATE.
YEAH, RIGHT! I NEVER LEARN.

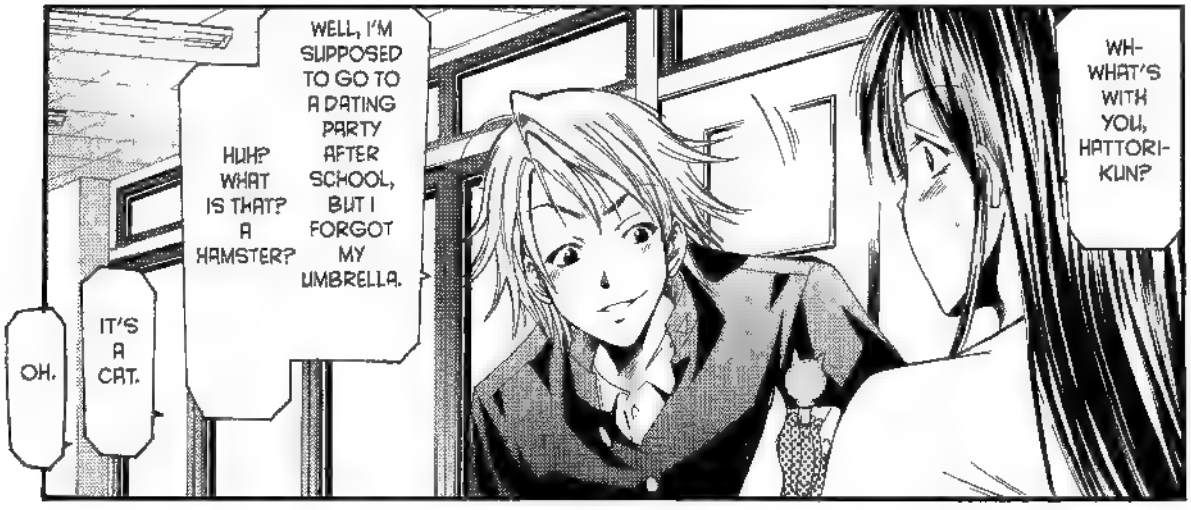

I'LL JUST WRITE... SORRY, CAN'T WORK TODAY.
CLICK
CLICK
THURSDAY
NIGHT
OR
FRIDAY
MORNING
I CHANGED OUR MEETING FOR FRIDAY AT NOON, TO SATURDAY.
I E-MAILED MY ASSISTANT.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Dating party, page 31

Hattori is going to a dating party or *gokon.* This is a Japanese dating ritual in which an even number of guys and girls go out together on a date. It's sort of like a Japanese version of speed dating.

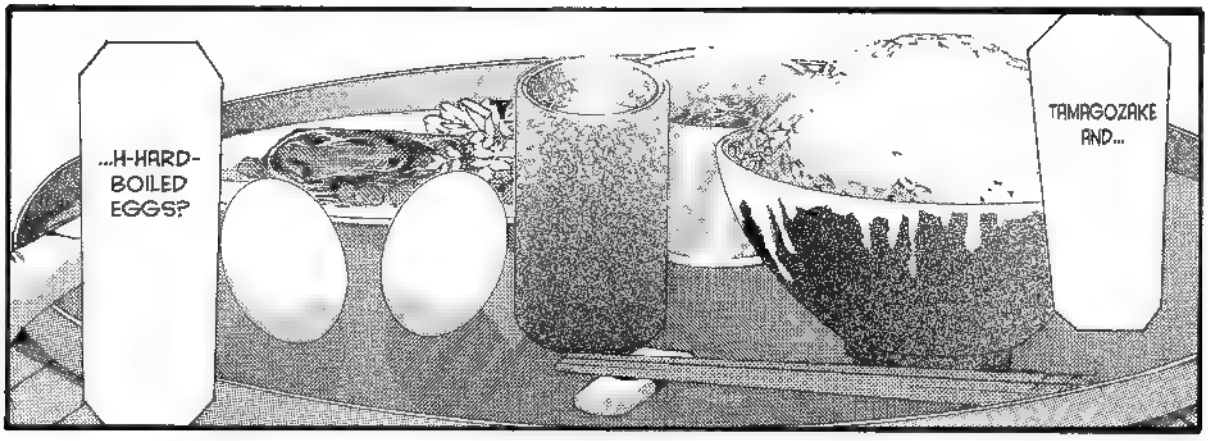


Shoes in locker, page 34

In Japan, people customarily remove their shoes when indoors. In Japanese schools, students generally place their shoes in a locker and change into slippers for use in classrooms.

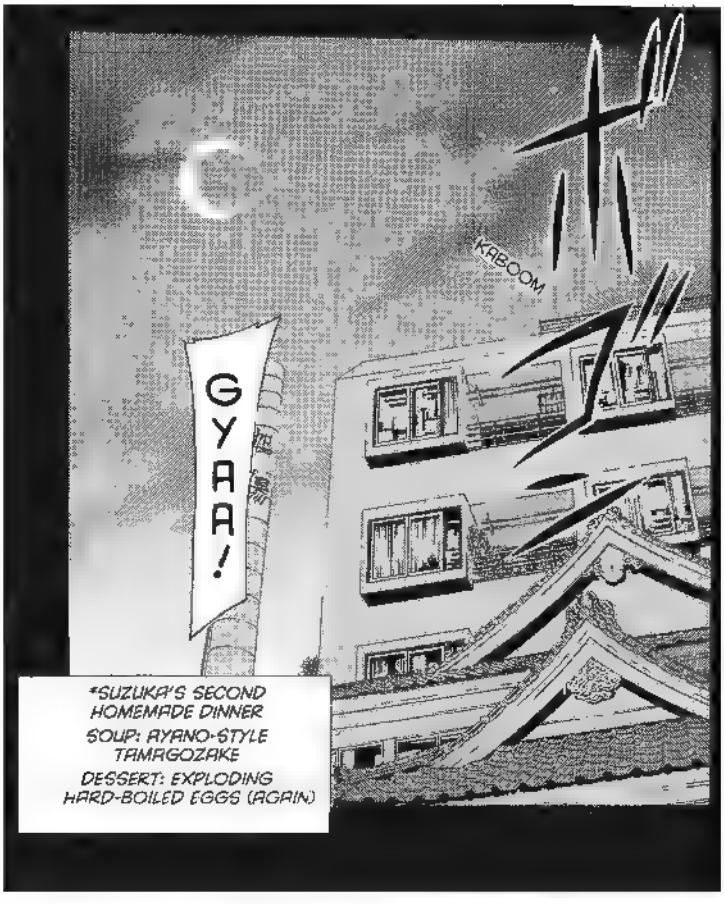
Tamagozake, page 57

Tamagozake is a traditional home remedy for colds consisting of raw eggs and sake.



Exploding hard-boiled eggs, page 61

In *Suzuka,* Volume 1, Asahina made "exploding" hard-boiled eggs and clumpy *tamagozake* for Yamato.



The Hiroshima Carp, page 70

The Hiroshima Carp are a Japanese baseball team.

Karaoke box, page 70

Yamato and the gang are in a karaoke box. Karaoke boxes are private karaoke rooms rented by the hour. You get your own karaoke machine, and you can order drinks and snacks. This is the most popular type of karaoke in Japan.

Yakisoba and *udon*, page 109

Yakisoba is a popular fried noodle dish. *Udon* is a thicker noodle that's often eaten in soup.

Try Aiburu! page 179

Japanese companies often use tissue packages to advertise their services. The fictional company Aiburu is probably a takeoff on the Japanese money-lending company Aifuru.

Preview of Volume 3

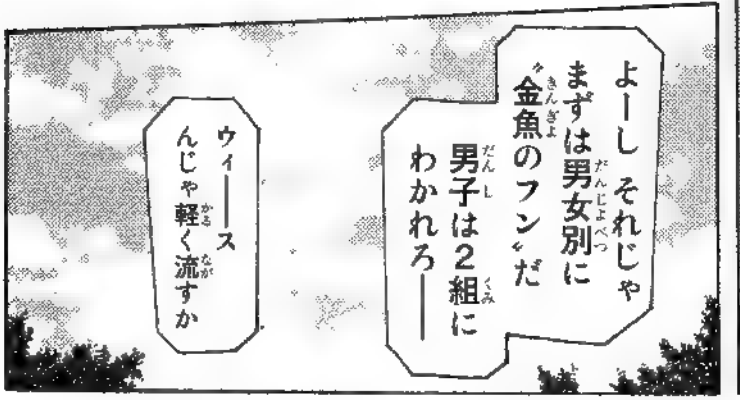
We are pleased to present you with a preview of *Suzuka,* Volume 3. It will be available in English on February 27, 2007, but for now you'll have to make do with the Japanese version!

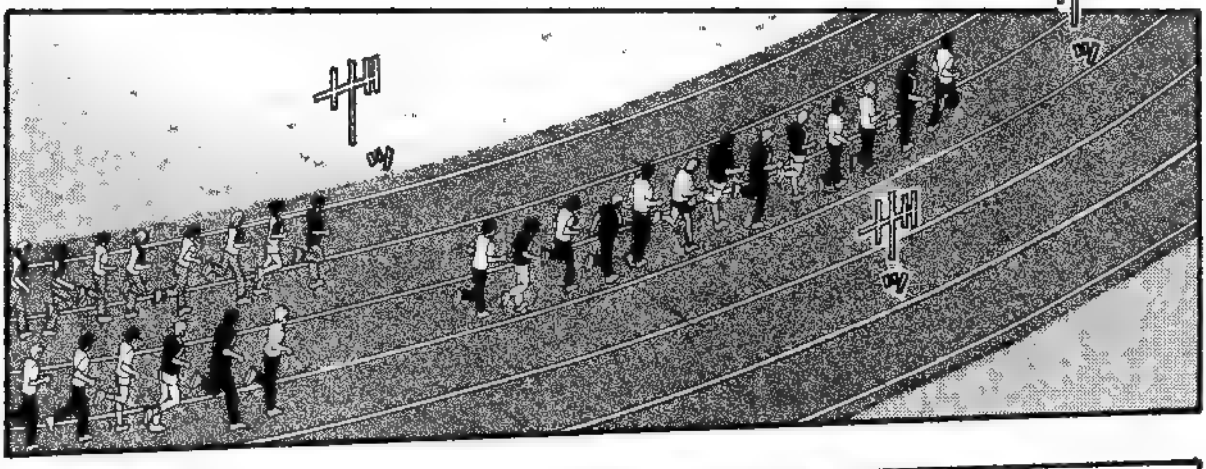
お——
待ってたぞ秋月!!
体力測定の時は
すごかったな—!!
いや——っ!!
ウチの小早川に
勝ったんだって!?
・・・・・・
短距離特待生
小早川健二くん

秋月
キミは何の種目を
選ぶつもりだ?
えっと・・・・
一応100mを

うん・・・ 僕も
それがいいと思います
キャプテン
彼は短距離選手
向きです

任せてください!!
オレ
頑張ります!!


よーし それじゃ
まずは男女別に
金魚のフンだ
男子は2組に
わかれろ——
ウィ——ス
んじゃ軽く流すか



なんだ
〝金魚のフン〟って
一列でランニング
することか

ちょっと
ペースは速いけど
これくらいなら
大丈夫だ！

宮本センパイ
これ何周するんスか？

さァ…って…

……

ハッ

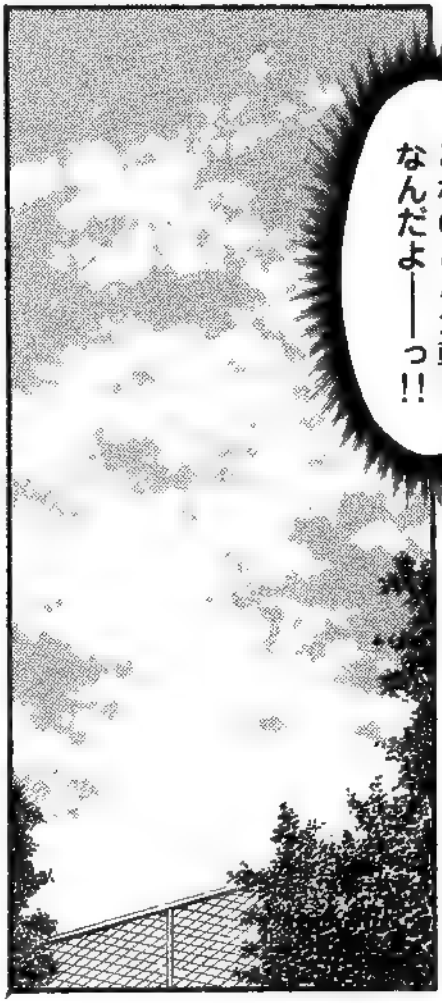
ハッ

ハッ

さァな…

え!?
ええ!?
もしかして
後ろからダッシュして
先頭に出るんスか!?
次だぞ
秋月くん!
あ・ハイ!!
マジかよォ!!
15人もいるのに!!

くそ――っ
追いつけね――!!
みんな
ペース速い
っスよ――!!


これのどこが軽く
なんだよ――っ!!

ハ――ッ
ハ――ッ

け・結局
ダッシュ10本・・
グラウンド
何周したか
覚えてねー・・

くそォ……
何でみんなヘーキな顔してんだよ……
当然でしょ
アンタがベラベラ喋りながらいい加減な走り方してるから…
みんなペースが落ちてるのよ！
……え…
迷惑だって言ったでしょ!?
陸上部の足引っ張んないで!!
あ…涼風ァ！
……

秋月には特に厳しいなァ涼風！

え……ああ……

あ 私 羽柴美紀 1年だよ

アンタのことは涼風からいろいろ聞いてるから

あ・朝比奈からって……友達？

こっからは種目別の練習ね 私も短距離なの！ ホラ 行くよ！

Basilisk

Original Story by Fūtaro Yamada
Manga by Masaki Segawa

THE BATTLE BEGINS

The Iga clan and the Kouga clan have been sworn enemies for more than four hundred years. Only the Hanzo Hattori truce has kept the two families from all-out war. Now, under the order of Shogun Ieyasu Tokugawa, the truce has been dissolved. Ten ninja from each clan must fight to the death in order to determine who will be the next Tokugawa Shogun. The surviving clan will rule for the next thousand years.

But not all the clan members are in agreement. Oboro of the Iga clan and Gennosuke of the Kouga clan have fallen deeply in love. Now these star-crossed lovers have been pitted against each other. Can their romance conquer a centuries-old rivalry? Or is their love destined to end in death?

Mature: Ages 18+

Special extras in each volume! Read them all!

DEL REY

VISIT WWW.DELREYMANGA.COM TO:

- Read sample pages
- View release date calendars for upcoming volumes
- Sign up for Del Rey's free manga e-newsletter
- Find out the latest about new Del Rey Manga series

Basilisk © 2003 Fūtaro Yamada and Masaki Segawa / KODANSHA LTD. All rights reserved

AIR GEAR

BY OH!GREAT

Itsuki Minami needs no introduction—everybody's heard of the "Babyface" of the Eastside. He's the strongest kid at Higashi Junior High School, easy on the eyes but dangerously tough when he needs to be. Plus, Itsuki lives with the mysterious and sexy Noyamano sisters. Life's never dull, but it becomes downright dangerous when Itsuki leads his school to victory over vindictive Westside punks with gangster connections. Now he stands to lose his school, his friends, and everything he cares about. But in his darkest hour, the Noyamano girls give him an amazing gift, one that just might help him save his school: a pair of Air Trecks. These high-tech skates are more than just supercool. They'll enable Itsuki to execute the wildest, most aggressive moves ever seen—and introduce him to a thrilling and terrifying new world.

Ages: 16+

Special extras in each volume! Read them all!

DEL REY

VISIT WWW.DELREYMANGA.COM TO:

- Read sample pages
- View release date calendars for upcoming volumes
- Sign up for Del Rey's free manga e-newsletter
- Find out the latest about new Del Rey Manga series

Air Gear © 2003 Oh!great / KODANSHA LTD. All rights reserved.

School Rumble

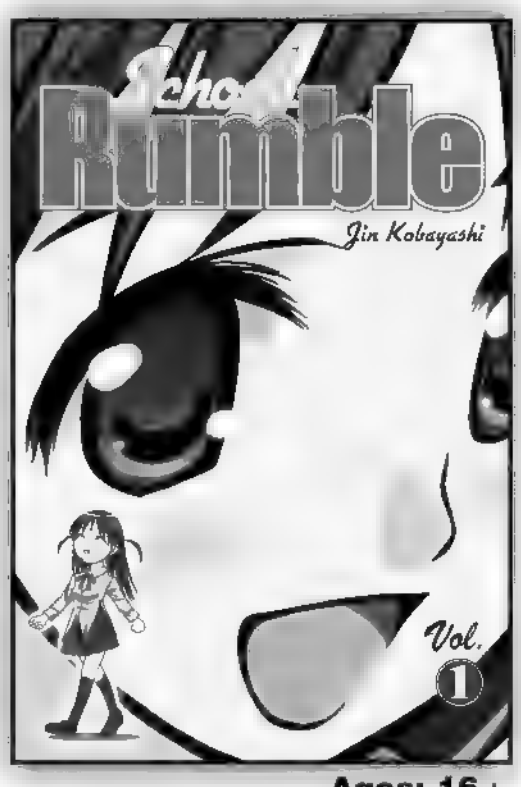
BY JIN KOBAYASHI

SUBTLETY IS FOR WIMPS!

She . . . is a second-year high school student with a single all-consuming question: Will the boy she likes ever really notice her?

He . . . is the school's most notorious juvenile delinquent, and he's suddenly come to a shocking realization: He's got a huge crush, and now he must tell her how he feels.

Life-changing obsessions, colossal foul-ups, grand schemes, deep-seated anxieties, and raging hormones—School Rumble portrays high school as it really is: over-the-top comedy!



Ages: 16+

Special extras in each volume! Read them all!

DEL REY

VISIT WWW.DELREYMANGA.COM TO:

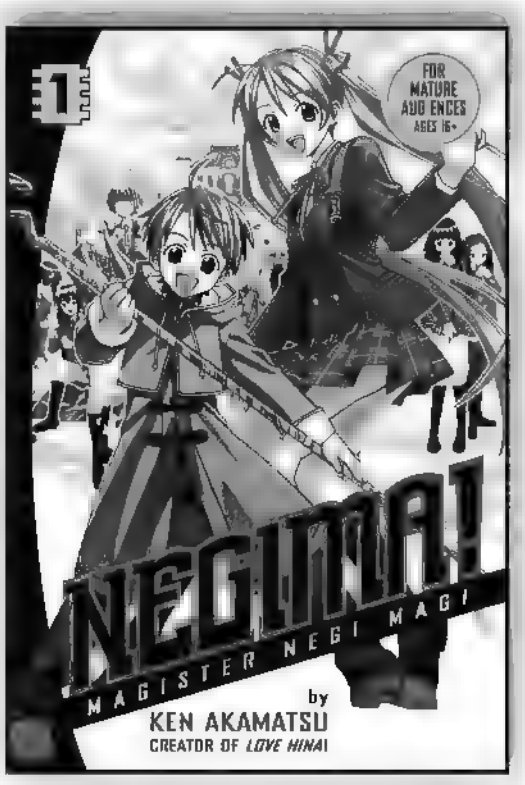
- **Read sample pages**
- **View release date calendars for upcoming volumes**
- **Sign up for Del Rey's free manga e-newsletter**
- **Find out the latest about new Del Rey Manga series**

School Rumble © 2003 Jin Kobayashi / KODANSHA LTD. All rights reserved.

NEGIMA!™

BY KEN AKAMATSU

Negi Springfield is a ten-year-old wizard teaching English at an all-girls Japanese school. He dreams of becoming a master wizard like his legendary father, the Thousand Master. At first his biggest concern was concealing his magic powers, because if he's ever caught using them publicly, he thinks he'll be turned into an ermine! But in a world that gets stranger every day, it turns out that the strangest people of all are Negi's students! From a librarian with a magic book to a centuries-old vampire, from a robot to a ninja, Negi will risk his own life to protect the girls in his care!



Ages: 16+

Special extras in each volume! Read them all!

DEL REY

VISIT WWW.DELREYMANGA.COM TO:

- View release date calendars for upcoming volumes
- Sign up for Del Rey's free manga e-newsletter
- Find out the latest about new Del Rey Manga series

Negima © 2004 Ken Akamatsu / KODANSHA LTD. All rights reserved.

GHOST HUNT

MANGA BY SHIHO INADA
STORY BY FUYUMI ONO

The decrepit building was condemned long ago, but every time the owners try to tear it down, "accidents" start to happen—people get hurt, sometimes even killed. Mai Taniyama and her classmates have heard the rumors that the creepy old high school is haunted. So, one rainy day they gather to tell ghost stories, hoping to attract one of the suspected spirits. No ghosts materialize, but they do meet Kazuya Shibuya, the handsome young owner of Shibuya Psychic Research, hired to investigate paranormal activity at the school. Also brought to the scene are an exorcist, a Buddhist monk, a woman who can speak with the dead, and an outspoken Shinto priestess. Surely one of them will have the talents to solve this mystery. . . .

Ages: 13+

Special extras in each volume! Read them all!

DEL REY

VISIT WWW.DELREYMANGA.COM TO:
- Read sample pages
- View release date calendars for upcoming volumes
- Sign up for Del Rey's free manga e-newsletter
- Find out the latest about new Del Rey Manga series

Ghost Hunt © 1998 Shiho Inada and Fuyumi Ono / KODANSHA LTD. All rights reserved.

KURO GANE

BY KEI TOUME

AN EERIE, HAUNTING SAMURAI ADVENTURE

Teen: Ages 13+

Avenging his father's murder is a matter of honor for the young samurai Jintetsu. But it turns out that the killer is a corrupt government official—and now the powers that be are determined to hunt Jintetsu down. There's only one problem: Jintetsu is already dead.

Torn to pieces by a pack of dogs, Jintetsu's ravaged body has been found by Genkichi, outcast and master inventor. Genkichi gives the dead boy a new, indestructible steel body and a talking sword—just what he'll need to face down the gang that's terrorizing his hometown and the mobster who ordered his father's hit. But what about Otsuki, the beautiful girl he left behind? Steel armor is defense against any sword, but it can't save Jintetsu from the pain in his heart.

Special extras in each volume! Read them all!

DEL REY

VISIT WWW.DELREYMANGA.COM TO:

- Read sample pages
- View release date calendars for upcoming volumes
- Sign up for Del Rey's free manga e-newsletter
- Find out the latest about new Del Rey Manga series

Kurogane © 1996 Kei Toume / KODANSHA LTD. All rights reserved.

Subscribe to

DEL REY'S MANGA
e-newsletter—

and receive all these exciting exclusives directly in your e-mail inbox:

- Schedules and announcements about the newest books on sale

- Exclusive interviews and exciting behind-the-scenes news

- Previews of upcoming material

- A manga reader's forum, featuring a cool question-and-answer section

For more information and to sign up for Del Rey's manga e-newsletter,
visit www.delreymanga.com

You are going the wrong way!

Manga is a completely different type of reading experience.

To start at the *beginning*, go to the *end!*

That's right! Authentic manga is read the traditional Japanese way—from right to left. Exactly the *opposite* of how American books are read. It's easy to follow: Just go to the other end of the book, and read each page—and each panel—from right side to left side, starting at the top right. Now you're experiencing manga as it was meant to be.